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Madrid Talks

Palestinian Delegate Sees Gains From Talks

NC0511144891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Madrid, 5 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the official Palestinian delegation to the peace conference, and professor at Bir Zayt University, said that the Palestinians achieved three gains in the Madrid conference.

He told MENA that the first gain is "political," since the conference gave the Palestinians an unprecedented chance to present their political position in a principled, realistic, and flexible way. This let them persuade a large segment of international public opinion and contributed to giving the just Palestinian cause wider support than ever before.

Dr. al-Khatib said that the second gain, a major success, is in the media. Media coverage of the Palestinian delegation's activity, speeches, and press conferences was extensive, surpassing media focus on any other event in Madrid. Dr. al-Khatib attributed this to the Palestinian issue's shaping of the conference and the conflict's core, and to the positive presentation of the Palestinian stand.

He added that the third Palestinian gain, in his view the most important, relates to morale, which was negatively affected by the Gulf war. The conference, he said, helped change the atmosphere because the delegates' success, international support, and the opportunity they were given greatly enhanced the Palestinian people's confidence in the Palestinian delegation, really lifting morale. This was apparent in wide-scale and popular demonstrations, rallies, and ceremonies inside and outside the occupied territories supporting delegation positions and speeches in Madrid.

This support, said al-Khatib, is an asset that can be used to advance the Palestinian political struggle, particularly in the occupied territories, and to make a qualitative change in the Palestinian intifadah.

He continued: The Palestinian delegation will return tomorrow to the occupied territory following a stopover in Amman to meet the Jordanian side of the joint delegation.

Dr. al-Khatib said that the joint delegation will meet Jordanian officials to evaluate this stage and prepare joint plans for the next.

He expected the Palestinian delegation to get a warm welcome on its return to the occupied territories, and added: We will succeed in making the delegation's return a political festival of support, whether the Israelis like it or not.

On the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation meeting its Israeli counterpart, Dr. al-Khatib said that the Arab and Israeli delegations met face to face. What is politically significant, he added, is that these meetings were under the peace conference umbrella, the result of top-level Arab coordination, and that Arab delegations cooperated satisfactorily to overcome difficulties created by the Israeli side.

Palestinians Object to Israeli Delegate

TA0611122391 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 6 Nov 91 p 2

[Report by Dan Avidan from Madrid]

[Text] Members of the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid talks yesterday expressed their disapproval of the fact that Major General Dani Rothschild, coordinator of government activities in the territories, had participated in talks with them. Two Palestinian delegates told the DAVAR correspondent that, to them, Rothschild symbolizes the Israeli "occupation" of the territories, and his attending the talks was, therefore, in bad taste.

One of the speakers said that if Gen. Rothschild is appointed a "liaison" between the Israeli Government and the Palestinian delegation members, they would refuse to cooperate with him and would demand that he be replaced. They also said that the delegation members will not respond to requests to show up at the Military Government when they return to Israel, and that all the contacts with them will have to be made through the delegation offices or through the U.S. and USSR cosponsors.

Ghassan al-Khatib, a member of the Palestinian delegation, said that they were about to leave Amman for Israel on 8 November, and they were expecting a mass reception. While in Amman, the delegation will hold consultations with the PLO and Jordanian administration members concerning the continuation of the dialogue. Al-Khatib said that, upon their return to Israel, they will ask for a sort of immunity against the Military Government authorities going through their belongings, confiscating papers connected with the negotiations, or preventing their freedom of movement related to preparations for the negotiations.

Palestinian sources reported that the meeting between the Israeli and the Palestinian teams did not yield much, dealing mainly with technicalities regarding an agreed venue for future talks. As is well known, no agreement was reached on that issue. At the same time, the sources expressed their satisfaction with the fact that negotiations have started, which they view as an achievement in itself. Most of the Arab sources with whom the DAVAR correspondent spoke judged that the talks would continue in Washington between 17 and 25 November.

It has also been learned that at the Palestinian-Israeli session in Madrid, Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation, demanded that the

delegations immediately move to dealing with transferring authority from the Military Government to the Palestinians, in the framework of the interim arrangements. The Palestinians rejected this demand, claiming that before this topic is broached, firm facts have to established to determine that the interim arrangement remains temporary, and that it paves the road to the permanent arrangement that will guarantee self-determination for the Palestinians.

The Palestinians also demanded an early understanding with Israel concerning the separation of issues to be discussed with the Palestinians from those concerning the Jordanians; they also demanded a corresponding split of the delegation. This is based on the wording of the invitation, which stated that the negotiations will be held on two separate tracks: between Israel and the Arab countries, and between Israel and the Palestinians. Rubinstein told the Palestinians that he would rather not deal with this issue, and that aroused the suspicion that the Israelis are trying to prevent the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation from splitting. In the meeting, the Jordanians read out a political statement concerning the need for an Israeli withdrawal according to UN Resolution 242. The Palestinians made an independent political statement. Rubinstein outlined the Likud positions about the territories one by one, which angered the Palestinians.

Faysal al-Husayni told DAVAR that he too expects negotiations to reopen in two to three weeks in Washington. He said that upon their return to Israel, the Palestinian delegation would deal mainly with two issues: garnering Palestinian and Israeli public support for the peace process, and preparations for the negotiations.

It has been learned that Peace Now activists called members of the Palestinian delegation in Madrid and told them that the movement intends to demonstrate in support of the peace process when the delegation returns to Israel.

Egypt's Musa Cited on Talks With Shamir

PM0511125091 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Nov 91 p 2

[Interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Raghidah Dirgham in Madrid; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Dirgham] What is your view of the speeches delivered at the Madrid conference? Do they reflect escalation or flexibility, or do they open new doors? And what do you expect after Madrid?

[Musa] The speeches delivered embodied stances which the parties deem important within the framework of the coming negotiations in the peace process, which has started. What is more important is that all the parties to the existing problem in the Middle East have come and taken part in the conference—which itself represents an important step. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] In your speech you stressed the points which to some extent represent a unified Arab position. We have heard that the atmosphere during your meeting with Shamir was tense. Is that true? Was it because of the stances announced by Egypt in your speech, which are bound to encounter Israel's opposition?

[Musa] This is not the first time that we have explained our position. Egypt's position has always been clear. Since 5 June 1967 we have been talking about the full restoration of the land, the Palestinian people's rights, and a settlement that takes account of all these elements. Our speech has been described as being integrated with Arab views. Such integration is essential and fundamental and constitutes the axis on which Egyptian policy is based with regard to the Middle East problem. Obviously Israel disagrees with a number of our positions and principles on which we insist, and which concern them (the Israelis). But for our part, we will insist on this position and on talking with the Israelis in order to use that relationship for the sake of the peace process.

[Dirgham] Is it true that your meeting with Shamir was tense? What happened at the meeting?

[Musa] It depends on your interpretation of the word "tense." We have positions which we will not abandon. In my meeting with Prime Minister Shamir, I repeated what I said in my speech. I listened to his comments and he listened to my comments on his comments, and so on. We go to such meetings not to fight, but to discuss very serious questions. And I believe that even if there are negative Israeli positions—and there are, of course—the essence and art of negotiation require that I do not regard the negative positions which I heard and which I will hear as necessarily representing Israel's final positions. We remain hopeful that such positions will be reactivated. The negotiation process itself will contribute to that.

[Dirgham] It seems, at least at this stage, that the Jerusalem question is the most difficult of the thorny issues, because of the big difference between the Arab and Israeli positions on Jerusalem. How will that problem be tackled?

[Musa] It will be tackled. How? I do not think we are in a position to broach it now. But that problem must be negotiated and broached. And an agreement of opinion and understanding must be reached on Jerusalem's final status, and it will not be the status imposed by Israel. The final status must be accepted not only by Israel and the Palestinians, but by all the parties. This, because the Jerusalem issue is an issue for all of us: Muslims, Christians, Arabs, and non-Arabs. So if the Palestinian problem is the crux of the Middle East problem, Jerusalem is the crux of the Palestinian problem.

[Dirgham] So will the Jerusalem problem be raised at a later stage, in particular during the discussion of the final status of the occupied territories?

[Musa] I personally do not believe in that. I believe that this issue should be broached immediately. But that will also depend on the outcome of the negotiations.

[Dirgham] In his speech Shamir mentioned the question of settling the Palestinians in the Arab states in which they are present. Will that be broached in the negotiations? And what is your opinion of that Israeli proposal?

[Musa] That position has been raised by the Israelis before, and they might raise it in the negotiations. And we will have a view in that regard. The question does not concern settlement. It has to do with the Palestinian people's rights. So, rights first, and the status of the Palestinians outside and inside will be tackled on the basis of rights. But these details are matters for the negotiations, and I cannot go into them now. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] It is said that Syria wants effective participation and contributions from Washington and Moscow in the bilateral negotiations. Israel prefers otherwise. Has a compromise been reached in that regard?

[Musa] The U.S. and Soviet roles are important as two sponsor states that can play an influential role. The same applies to the European states' role and Egypt's role. We will be here when bilateral talks begin, but we will not be at the talks themselves. We will be available to offer any assistance that might be sought.

[Dirgham] In his speech the Syrian foreign minister refused to participate in the multilateral negotiations before the features of the bilateral negotiations are clear, especially with regard to the withdrawal issue. He regarded proceeding with the multilateral negotiations without the withdrawal element as a perpetuation of the Israeli occupation. What about this Syrian view, in view of the fact that most Arab states have agreed to participate in those negotiations?

[Musa] The Syrian logic is clear, and we respect it. We believe that success must be achieved on the basis of the land-for-peace principle, because that will help make the multilateral talk a success. But initiating these talks is another matter. They can start on organizational matters, and so on. However, we will discuss all these matters, in the knowledge that there will be a two-week period between the bilateral negotiations and the multilateral talks, in order to reach an understanding on all these issues. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] Can negotiations continue if Israel continues to build settlements?

[Musa] If Israel continues to build settlements, that will be a very bad thing and will affect the prospects for a settlement. But in my view, we should not talk about negotiations in such a simple way. If this continues, we will stop the negotiations. No, not like that. We should be wise. What is certain, however—and everyone knows it—is that the sponsors of the conference, the parties to the conference, and Israel itself know that continuing to build settlements means that the peace process will fail. So we must work to stop settlement. [passage omitted]

[Dirgham] The United States—and you too—focused on the point that ending the state of war is not enough and that a state of peace is required. So what does that mean?

[Musa] We are talking about a comprehensive settlement, not just steps. This comprehensiveness must include a complete withdrawal from the Golan, for example. So when we talk about a comprehensive settlement, we are talking about fundamental and major measures along that road. They include, of course, ending the state of war. But they also include reaching agreements on a comprehensive peace, provided that the Palestinian people's rights are respected and the Arab land is returned. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Delegation Chairman on Madrid

NC0511203791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan, chairman of the Lebanese delegation to the bilateral talks at the Madrid peace conference, stated that when he was informed that Israel was escalating its operations in southern Lebanon, he demanded that the aggression against southern villages stop, adding that the delegation contacted influential countries on the issue.

Al-Hasan made these remarks upon his return to Beirut Airport at 1745 today. He was accompanied by Ambassadors Jihad Murtada and Samir Mubarak, Counselor Yusuf Arsanyus, and Mrs. Izabelle Iddih.

It was clear in the bilateral talks, he said, that the talks were focusing on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425.

The Lebanese delegation was flexible but firm, al-Hasan said, adding that when the delegation went to Madrid, it had only one objective: the implementation of Resolution 425.

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz did not return to Lebanon because he left for a private two-day visit to Paris with Counselor Ilyas al-Haddad, al-Hasan said.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Organization Leaders Discuss Madrid Conference

Arab League Head Previews Talks

PM0511164491 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 2 Nov 91 p 6

[Interview with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid by Bari'ah 'Alam-al-Din in London "last week"]

[Excerpt] ['Alam-al-Din] What are your expectations for the peace conference, and how does the Arab League view it?

['Abd-al-Majid] The Arab League announced a position on 12 September in which it welcomed the conference. It stipulated that the Arab League Council welcomes the efforts made to convene the peace conference to achieve a comprehensive and just peace solution to the the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine issue on the basis of international legitimacy and the UN resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338.

The resolution also states that the Arab League Council supports the positions of the Arab parties directly concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine issue in all the stages of the peace process. It supports their political position at the media level, and in all fields, with a view to reaching the desired just solution. This once again confirms the Arab League Council's support for the Arab parties' positions.

['Alam-al-Din] Do you see any hope of the Israeli Government's complying with the UN resolutions?

['Abd-al-Majid] We must first salute U.S. efforts, which led to the convening of the conference. President George Bush and Secretary James Baker deserve thanks for the constructive efforts made. The Arab side's position should also be praised, because this is the first time that it has adopted a unified stance in that regard.

This united stance was emphasized further by Resolution 509 adopted by the Arab League Council in September, which shows the whole world that the Arab states want a just peace. Like any negotiations between two conflicting groups that have been separated by years of war and hostility, these negotiations are bound to face states of tension and discussion before the required results are reached.

Obviously everyone must be patient and not depend on miracles, because the age of miracles is past. The important thing is that the desire to secure a just solution exists and will always inspire patience and objectiveness.

['Alam-al-Din] Will a just peace be based on partial or separate solutions?

['Abd-al-Majid] The Arab side wants a just and comprehensive solution and rejects partial or separate solutions, because such solutions do not produce peace.

['Alam-al-Din] Is there any talk about convening an Arab summit soon?

['Abd-al-Majid] There are no contacts with regard to convening such a conference now. It is, of course, up to the leaders to decide what they believe is right. [passage omitted]

GCC Head on Opening Sessions

PM0511165891 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 3 Nov 91 p 4

[Unattributed interview with 'Abdallah Bisharah, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council and head of the Gulf Cooperation Council delegation to the Madrid conference, in Madrid; date not given]

[Excerpts] [SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] What has the Gulf Cooperation Council delegation offered so far, after the end of the opening sessions of the peace conference?

[Bisharah] We emphasized bolstering the Arab position, coordinating the positions, and concentrating on the Arab constants. The constants are based on three foundations: perpetuating international legitimacy, implementing the Security Council resolutions, and emphasizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Furthermore, our participation has reflected the interest in and concern for the peace process, since peace is a vital and fundamental issue. It has reflected our awareness of the delicacy of the stage through which the Palestinian issue is passing. [passage omitted]

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] Do you believe the Arabs achieved any victories so far?

[Bisharah] Frankly, the conference is historic and the Arabs displayed a unified position, the most important aspect of which is that is is based on the international constants which Israel is trying to evade. The EC, U.S., and Soviet speeches strengthened these constants which Israel rejects. Furthermore, the Palestinian voice emerged as a wise, balanced voice dealing with reality, since it realizes that new developments and conditions require that the Palestinians coexist with these developments and that they make demands that lie within the framework of the possible. In contrast with that Palestinian position, Shamir outlined his position in his address, which was based on the Jewish people's history as he sees it. He spoke about the past instead of speaking about the future. He said nothing political. He did not even refer to the conference, because he does not want the conference. He just wants opening sessions, that's all. [passage omitted]

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] Do the Gulf states make it conditional that progress be made in bilateral talks before it can participate in the third stage of the multilateral negotiations?

[Bisharah] No. We defined our position, namely, that the issues raised in the multilateral negotiations cannot, of course, be dealt with unless there is progress in the bilateral talks. Because of their nature, issues such as water and so on cannot be discussed before the parties make progress in the bilateral talks. Let us return to Secretary Baker's speech, in which he said Shamir refused to halt the building of settlements. The final

opening session was uncomfortable because Shamir adopted the same tactic that I experienced throughout my work at the United Nations. They come to talk about things that are remote from the essence of the matter. What is important to them is to confuse priorities and to divert attention from the constants and major issues. [passage omitted]

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] Can you determine a deadline for the completion of the negotiations?

[Bisharah] Years!

[SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI] But President Bush said that Palestinians would be granted the right to self-determination after three years.

[Bisharah] What Bush said is that the discussion of the final status of the occupied territories would begin after three years.

Arab Maghreb Union Assessment

LD0211092991 Rabat MAP in English 1245 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] Tunis, Nov 1 (MAP)—"Maghreb countries' interest in the Palestinian cause and in the Middle East issue is neither new nor conjunctural," said secretary general of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) Mohamed Amamou in a statement to Tunisian daily AL-SABAH.

Amamou who is representing UMA backing to the peace conference and recalled that the latest UMA summit (September) has asserted that it was "necessary" to reach a fair solution based on UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and on the "land for peace" principle.

To a question on the observer status of the UMA delegate and whether this status was meant to confine the Maghreb in a neutral stand, Amamou said the maghreb has never been neutral with regard to the Palestinian cause and the Mideast issue. "Our participation was decided at the urgent request of the rightful claimants, for the Palestinian cause is ours," he said.

He added that the Maghreb will welcome any solution guaranteeing a fair, comprehensive and lasting settlement as it will endorse any agreement accepted by the Palestinians who are the main concerned side and who know better tha anyone else where their interest lies. Any Arab overbidding to the detriment of the Palestinians should be avoided.

Of the Libyan stand, he said Tripoli has expressed reserves on the conference but accepted that the Maghreb be represented there by the UMA secretary general.

In another statement to Algerian daily AL-SALAM, Amamou renewed UMA backing to the Palestinian cause and pointed out that Arabs and Palestinians came to Madrid out of attachment to international legality. Now, if Israel persists in its stubborness, it would be placed in a very uncomfortable position."

Islamic Affairs

Popular Islamic Group Not To Convene 'This Year'

JN0211120791 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 28 Oct 91 p 8

[By Lahib 'Abd-al-Khaliq from Baghdad]

[Excerpt] Dr. 'Irfan 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Popular Islamic Conference Organization [PICO], has affirmed that PICO's conference will not be convened, at least not this year, because preparations for calling it into session have not been completed.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added that were it to convene, the conference could express support for the Iraqi people, bolster the support for Iraq shown by Muslim peoples and their masses throughout the world, and firmly and strongly demand that the economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people be lifted and dismantled, or violated, to say the least.

Dr. 'Irfan 'Abd-al-Majid went on to say that the Islamic movements of the world sympathize with the sufferings of the Iraqi people. They support the Iraqi people's stands and cause throughout the Islamic world. However, coercive restrictions by regimes, as well as external forces, have rendered this support ineffective and have prevented it from being transformed into influential and effective deeds and acts, he noted. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

PFLP Breaks From Membership in Top PLO Body

JN0611101991 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], led by George Habash, which is one of the three main PLO factions, today suspended its membership in the PLO Executive Committee. This has been announced by PFLP sources in Damascus, which also said that the PFLP Central Committee has held a series of meetings in Damascus over the past few days.

On 24 October, Habash announced his determination to freeze his front's activities in the PLO Executive Committee, or to withdraw from it. He described the Madrid conference as the capitulation conference, and rejected the PLO's acceptance of forming a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to these negotiations.

Officials Comment on Madrid Peace Conference

'Arafat—Talks 'Satisfactory Start'

LD0511205491 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] The brother president leader [Abu 'Ammar] says that the Madrid conference constitutes a satisfactory

start to the peace process. In reply to questions by the AL-TAJDID newspaper, the brother President Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said that a just peace needs colossal efforts, and is a challenge which is facing the cochairmen of the conference, especially the American side. He recalled that the conference is being held on the basis of President Bush's recommendations announced last March under the principle of land for peace. However, the brother president leader Abu 'Ammar sincerely regretted Shamir's complete disavowal and rejections of these principles during the conference, and in his statement, which was inappropriate from the point of view of the time and place.

Concerning the American position toward Israel, the brother president contented himself by saying: We prefer to wait. We will not risk interpreting the words of others, or their speeches. As for the possibility of the resumption of dialogue between the PLO and the United States, the brother president said that we will wait for what will happen.

He then questioned the Soviets restoring [diplomatic] relations with Israel, at a time when the United States has not restored its relations with us. We, as the brother leader said, are not requesting the restoration of diplomatic relations, but the restoration of discussions. He also questioned the reason for this severance. The brother President Abu 'Ammar pointed out that the United States and the Soviet Union should have dealt with all the parties on an equal footing. He concentrated on this point in particular, saying: The violation of the two chairmen of this basis of justice is certain and beyond any doubt.

PLO Aide—Madrid 'Good Beginning'

PM0511155391 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Nov 91 p 5

[Muhammad al-Qulaybi report: "Sulayman al-Najjab Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: 'Occupied Territory Should be Placed Under International Supervision To Pave Way for Restoration of Palestinian Sovereignty'"]

[Excerpts] Tunis— PLO Executive Committee Member Sulayman al-Najjab has stressed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Madrid conference, witnessed by the whole world, is a good beginning that paves the way for subsequent steps and helps continued mobilization of Arab and international public opinion for the next phase of bilateral negotiations to bring pressure to bear on Israel and commit it to the legitimate UN resolutions. [passage omitted]

Sulayman al-Najjab lauded the strong and clear European position which has been of special importance in reaffirming support for the Palestinian people's rights and for the need to achieve international legitimacy. That also was the position of the two states supervising the conference, he said.

In view of that international unanimity on the need to achieve international legitimacy, al-Najjab said, Israel and its rulers have no choice but to respond to that call.

Al-Najjab urged the United States to maintain the momentum of the Madrid conference and to concentrate in the coming days on the necessity of ending the Israeli occupation of all Arab and Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem.

The executive committee member emphasized that the central issue in the coming negotiations is the need to ensure that that occupation comes to an end.

To facilitate that process, al-Najjab said, we Palestinians could ask that our occupied territory be placed under international supervision, that the settlement process be halted, and that the Palestinian people's right to self-determination be recognized.

He added that the aim of accepting a settlement in stages was to facilitate the Israeli withdrawal and not, as Shamir wants, to halt there and confirm annexation of the Arab and Palestinian territories to Israel. [passage omitted]

What is important, he said, is that sovereignty over our occupied territory should not remain in Israeli hands.

Commenting on James Baker's assertion at the final session that "if you don't make peace, we won't be able to make it for you," al-Najjab said: "I would like to understand Baker's statement to mean that he was letting international legitimacy and the clear UN resolutions impose peace through the implementation of these resolutions. I cannot hide my concern that the Israeli rulers might interpret these statements as an assurance that the United States would continue to provide material and political aid for Israel and would not use such aid as a means of pressure to make it abide by international legitimacy... I also fear that James Baker's intention is to continue to block the return of the entire issue to the Security Council as the only international body capable of using all necessary means to make Israel implement the resolutions of that body."

Al-Najjab emphasized that the matter calls for a clear and unified position by the Arab states in opposition to such a U.S. stance, with a view to developing that position to the point of exercising the necessary influence on the Israeli rulers to facilitate the peace process through implementing the relevant Security Council and other UN resolutions.

Abu-Mazin, 'Abd-Rabbuh Comment

PM0511152491 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 2-3 Nov 91 p 5

[Unattributed report: "In First Response to Madrid Conference and its Speeches, Abu-Mazin Says: No Normalization of Relations Before Just and Comprehensive Solution; 'Abd-Rabbuh Says: Arab Summit for Frontline States, Saudi Arabia, and Morocco"]

[Text] Tunis, exclusive to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has revealed that the PLO has proposed the convening of a mini Arab summit comprising the five frontline states, Saudi Arabia as a representative of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], and Morocco as a representative of the Arab Maghreb Union states, in order to study at the highest level the strategy for Arab-Israeli negotiations. He said that none of these states objected to the Palestinian proposal.

'Abd-Rabbuh expressed his belief that that proposal could be realized within the next few days, because a summit meeting is an urgent matter in order to study Arab strategy for subsequent negotiations.

The Palestinian official denied reports of the possibility of the GCC states' adopting a separate stance, especially since that group's delegation emphasized at the Damascus conference the need to support the decision made by the frontline states, on the grounds that they have usurped rights.

PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, "Abu-Mazin," also broached the events of the past two days at the Madrid conference, which convened in Madrid the day before yesterday, Wednesday.

Abu-Mazin expressed his belief that the speech delivered by Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation within the joint delegation, expressed the Palestinian problem and all the leadership's demands. The speech also reflected the PLO's presence at the conference table, especially with regard to the reference to the oneness of Palestinian representation inside [the occupied territories] and in the diaspora. And also with regard to its reference to the resolutions of the PLO and its legitimate institutions, especially the [Palestine] National Council and the Central Council.

'Abbas rejected Yitzhaq Shamir's proposal that the bilateral talks be held in the region's capitals—"either Madrid or Washington"—stressing the need not to normalize Arab-Israeli relations before a comprehensive and just solution to the Palestinian issue is secured.

With regard to the PLO leadership's link with the text of the speech delivered by 'Abd-al-Shafi, the Executive Committee member said that all the dialogues with the United States six months ago and until today were conducted with the PLO's knowledge and approval—something which Israel and the United States do not deny.

He said that Shamir's speech was merely a chat about history and in no way provided any indication that Israel was willing to move toward a genuine peace.

*Al-Husayni on Negotiation Plans

92AE0046A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Oct 91 p 3

[Interview With Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo; date not given; 'An Exclusive Interview With AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Faysal al-Husayni: We Will Face Shamir With Facts, International Legitimacy; Jerusalem's Future Will Not Be Last Issue']

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—Faysal al-Husayni, general coordinator of the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid peace conference, has asserted that the negotiations will not be confined to a certain conclusion connected with Palestinian self-rule: "The horizons of discussion are open to us to raise any issue we believe we are entitled to raise."

In an exclusive interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, al-Husayni has said that he has gotten enough guarantees from the U.S. administration for participation by the diaspora Palestinians in the second phase of the negotiations. He has also disclosed what has been accomplished on the Jerusalem issue, and the possibility of raising this issue in the first or second phase of the negotiations. He has emphasized that this issue will not be the last issue, and that the Palestinian delegation will develop ideas for it from the beginning.

He has also pointed out that the regional conference will not launch its activities two weeks after the opening session, as some people have said, and that all that will happen is to hold one session to discuss this conference's agenda and issues.

Al-Husayni expects that the conference's initial opening session will set the course for the negotiations and the possibility of their success and continuation, stressing that Israel must display goodwill if it truly wants peace.

Following is the text of the interview:

[Abu-Husayn] To begin, and before we enter the phase of the peace conference negotiations, how did the preconference negotiations, which lasted eight months, go?

[Al-Husayni] I am certainly eager to clarify the phase preceding the peace conference negotiations, especially since some people have seen it as a phase of concessions. Therefore, it is my duty to tell these people that when negotiations with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker—negotiations which lasted eight months—started, we had a fundamental problem, namely, that the PLO was besieged everywhere, especially in wake of the Gulf war. At this time, the U.S. administration discussed the possibility of establishing peace in the Middle East and it saw that the Palestinians are the ones eligible to pay the price of stability in the region. This administration started negotiating with us under the slogan that the Palestinians will be the biggest winners from peace and the biggest losers if they refuse it. This is why we had to make some concessions.

[Abu-Husayn] Have you felt that you are the actual winners from the ongoing peaceful settlement process, and what are the concessions made to the U.S. administration and to the Israeli side?

[Al-Husayni] We, meaning the Palestinian delegation that negotiated with U.S. Secretary Baker, defined two things for ourselves from the outset, namely form and substance. We said that we could give up form in return for preserving substance, i.e., that we are going [to the conference] in order to achieve Israeli withdrawal in accordance with [UN] Resolutions 242 and 338. We also said that we must have the right to submit for discussion anything we believe we are entitled to submit, and that the negotiations should not be confined to a certain conclusion connected with self-rule or anything else, but rather, that the horizons of discussion should be open to us, provided that there be a timetable for the negotiations. This is why the pre-peace conference negotiation phase has been very difficult. Consequently, we had no option but to agree that the peace conference's initial negotiation phase will be without the diaspora Palestinians. But at the same time, we obtained from the U.S. administration enough guarantees that the Palestinians abroad and in the diaspora will join the second phase of the negotiations.

[Abu-Husayn] When will this phase begin?

[Al-Husayni] It will begin three years after the date of the peace conference's initial session, on the basis that there will be one year of negotiations in the interim phase. Two years after the start of this phase, the phase of final negotiations, i.e., the transfer of authority to the Palestinians, will begin.

[Abu-Husayn] There have been numerous statements about the negotiation and settlement phases and years. Can we know precisely how long the peace process will take?

[Al-Husayni] The first phase—a phase in which negotiations last one year, at the most—will be interspersed with the creation of an interim government or self-rule, during which authority will be transferred from the Israelis to the Palestinians. This phase will last five years. At the start of the third year, implementation of the final phase of the settlement will begin, with the provision that the first and second years constitute, as we have already said, the phase in which authority is transferred from the Israelis to the Palestinians. The role of the diaspora Palestinians will come in the next phase. In this phase, these Palestinians will play a fundamental role, especially since it is the phase which will discuss the issue of occupied Jerusalem.

[Abu-Husayn] There have been varied opinions on the difficult issues which will be discussed by the peace conference, especially the issues of Jerusalem, settlements, and water. Why have negotiations not begun on these issues?

[Al-Husayni] To start, I fully agree with this opinion, especially since settlement of the difficult issues at the beginning of the peace conference is tantamount to a major indicator of progress in the peace process. I also believe that the settlement issue should be discussed at the start of bilateral negotiations. As for the Jerusalem issue, we believe that if Israel persists in its settlement activity and in building settlements, then we will take practical steps, such as presenting our ideas on how to solve this major problem from the start, so that we will be able to overcome the obstacles that could ruin the negotiation climate. However, with a rigid and intransigent individual like Shamir, we will be compelled to agree that this issue will not be the first issue discussed at the negotiation table. But at the same time, we will not allow it to be the last issue discussed.

Syrian Position

[Abu-Husayn] In your opinion, does Syria's refusal to enter into multi-issue negotiations represent an obstacle impeding the conference's progress?

[Al-Husayni] I don't think so, especially since Syria stated from the outset that it doesn't wish to participate in the regional conference. It then indicated that it would participate if tangible progress is made in the bilateral negotiations on Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. In my opinion, this Syrian stance is positive. If it wants peace, Israel must show goodwill so that the Arab parties can enter into the regional conference negotiations, which will begin two weeks after the start of the bilateral talks, and which will essentially draw up the conference agendas. There will be no meeting or start for multilateral talks, and no issues will be raised. What will be done is to draw up a timetable and set a date for the issues that will be raised for discussion, and also to develop the procedural details concerning these issues.

[Abu-Husayn] What are these agendas that will be defined?

[Al-Husayni] In principle, it has been agreed that the regional conference's first session will be to determine what will be possible to do regarding the water, armament, environmental, and economic cooperation issues, and when discussion on these issues will begin. If these discussions begin, then the first question raised will be: Has Israel agreed to the principle of land for peace? If the answer is positive, the negotiations will begin, and if it is negative, then all the parties will ask: Over what are we going to negotiate? Will the Arab parties negotiate over imaginary issues, especially if we assume that the preceding meetings accomplished nothing substantive that is capable of realizing peace. This, I imagine, is how the negotiations will proceed.

Opening Session

[Abu-Husayn] What is your vision of the first hours of the peace conference? Will the opening session provide signs of whether the conference will succeed or not?

[Al-Husayni] It is possible that the opening session will determine the course of the conference and the possibility of its success and continuation, but not necessarily. It is also possible that Israel will create some procedural problems and issues when the Palestinian delegation speaks.

[Abu-Husayn] Will the Palestinian delegation proclaim that it is the PLO delegation at the opening session?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, the issue which the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation will proclaim is the issue of the peace process and of a comprehensive solution for the Palestinian people's rights. Consequently, it is not necessary that the delegation say: 'We represent the PLO.' Everybody knows who will be sitting at the negotiation table. As I said at the outset of my statements, the PLO is present, but it is banned from the negotiations. Consequently, the Palestinian delegation will not speak of the PLO, but about the PLO's content.

Despite Israel's attempt to eliminate the PLO's role, the PLO has not been actually absent. On the contrary, it has regained its position and its status, especially since the Gulf crisis. The doors have been opened for the PLO in Egypt, Syria, France, and a number of the region's other countries.

[Abu-Husayn] It has become obvious that from now on, Shamir will orchestrate the chain of acts of intransigence and rejection at the peace conference. Have Palestinian responses been prepared to soften this Israeli intransigence?

[Al-Husayni] We will not give Shamir the chance to swerve or break away from what is submitted at the negotiation table. We will face him with facts and with international legitimacy, in accordance with which the conference is convened. It will be difficult for Shamir and his band to ignore this legitimacy, especially since Shamir has entered the conference and since he has to realize that he has to either quit it or pay the price—"land for peace" and withdrawal from all the occupied territories. Otherwise, he will be compelled to withdraw from the conference from the start. In such a case, he will pay the price on a political and economic level that will affect Israel's future.

[Abu-Husayn] In your view, what does Shamir's chairmanship of the Israeli delegation to the peace conference signify?

[Al-Husayni] To begin with, we do not wish to intervene in other people's internal affairs. Even though this is an internal affair, we find that it provides certain indications. The first is that Shamir is entering the conference to say what he has said in the past, i.e.,that he will not give up any part of Israel's land for as long as he lives, and that he will fight until he hands over the banner to somebody else. The second thing for which Shamir has entered the peace conference in his capacity as the highest Israeli authority, is that he will begin with an endeavor to deal positively with the conference so that he can meet the grace period set for the U.S. loans—120 days. Therefore, we expect Shamir to be positive, even though he will give very little in this period. He will then resume his domineering and his intransigence.

Al-Husayni's Tasks

[Abu-Husayn] Faysal al-Husayni is the general coordinator for the Palestinian delegation to the negotiation. What does this task with which you have been charged mean?

[Al-Husayni] It means that I have a lot of the secrets of the negotiations in the pre-peace conference phase. I was supposed to have a role in the negotiations during the conference and inside the negotiation room. But because I bear a Jerusalem resident identity card, Israel rejected my presence in the negotiation room, and the United States agreed to this rejection. Consequently, I have been put in the supporting role of the Palestinian delegation coordinator throughout the conference, in order to follow up on the U.S. positions to which Israel committed itself and to which it agreed in the initial phase, namely the pre-conference negotiations phase; and so as to evaluate the progress and retreat in the U.S. and Israeli positions in the talks.

Jordanian-Palestinian Agreement

[Abu-Husayn] What about Palestinian-Jordanian coordination during the peace conference?

[Al-Husayni] As already announced, each side in the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation will have its complete jurisdiction and a separate chairmanship. The only thing is that the Jordanian foreign minister will head the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to the conference's opening session and his speech will be as head of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. It has also been agreed with the Jordanian brothers that each side in the delegation will have the right to deal in total freedom, meaning that when a Palestinian issue is discussed, the Palestinian side will be present in its entirety, plus two or three members of the Jordanian delegation, and vice versa.

[Abu-Husayn] What are the objectives of your visit to Cairo and your meeting with President Mubarak?

[Al-Husayni] We are going into a difficult battle. Therefore, coordination among all the concerned Arab parties is extremely important. I wish I could visit Syria and Lebanon. But because of the lack of time, the visit has been confined to Egypt, by virtue of its historical role, its long experience, and its expertise in negotiations with Israel. Our meeting with President Mubarak crowns the Egyptian-Palestinian coordination.

[Abu-Husayn] A final question: With what do you reassure those who are suspicious of the peace conference's objectives?

[Al-Husayni] I can only tell them that if the peace conference succeeds, we will have an end to the occupation and Israel will withdraw from the occupied territories. The guarantee is that when the U.S. secretary of state says that Resolution 242 must be applied to all fronts, then this underlines withdrawal and an end to the occupation, because Resolution 242 calls for withdrawal. Moreover, we have an agreement with Jordan to the effect that it is possible to merge any two independent entities in a single federal entity, which will be different in form from any previous federal entity, because the content will emphasize that this federal entity will ultimately be a union between two states. Other than this, we have other issues which will be implemented by way of Resolution 194, either through repatriation or compensation. We say that the right to repatriation is inarguable. As for exercising this right, we are prepared to negotiate on it.

Fears exist, regardless of whether the conference fails or succeeds. If the negotiations fail, then we have not ceded anything and have not signed anything. Consequently, we will leave the negotiations as we have entered them. This is why we tell our people: You are entitled to worry and you are entitled to hold responsible all participants in the negotiations in their capacity as the people in charge of waging this battle. We also tell our people that we will hold ourselves responsible if we cede any of their rights or the possibility of regaining their rights.

'Technical Committees' Being Formed in Territories

JN0511190291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Interview with Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, member of the Advisory Council to the Palestinian side of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, by Sa'id Mu'addi; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Mr. Ziyad, there are reports on the setting up of technical committees in the territories to participate in the peace talks. Can you give us an idea about these committees?

[Abu-Zayyad] Sir, our people are rich with energy, and we have technical and non-technical qualified people. We are about to enter into serious talks to reach a solution to the Palestinian question. Of course, we should prepare the necessary teams and recruit our qualified people enter into the negotiations, prepared on all levels. Contacts are under way with many academicians, professionals, and specialized and experienced people to draw upon their qualifications and potential to serve the Palestinian people's cause and general interests.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Ziyad, how many committees will there be, and who will take part in them?

[Abu-Zayyad] In fact, there is no specific number. There have been extensive contacts along various lines. These contacts will finally be united within a single group framework to prevent any duplication of activities. I hope, and I have a strong feeling that, God willing, all these things will be concluded in the future. There are also preparations taking place outside the occupied territories, including among the Palestinian quarters inside and outside Jordan to prepare similar teams. There is complete coordination between Palestinian forces inside and outside the occupied territories, to form a body of technicians who can provide the Palestinian negotiating delegation with all the resources necessary to make its mission a success.

[Mu'addi] Have the forces opposing the peace conference been consulted regarding the formation of these committees?

[Abu-Zayyad] These will be technical committees that transcend political considerations, or the considerations of parties and factions. This has been agreed upon with, and is understood by everyone. The efforts are being conducted on a purely technical and professional basis.

[Mu'addi] Mr. Ziyad, has the idea of setting up these committees been approved by Jordan, and was there coordination with Jordan over the issue?

[Abu-Zayyad] In fact, Jordan has not proclaimed itself a custodian over the Palestinian people and has not requested that the Palestinians not do anything without its approval, nor have their asked for prior coordination on such matters. In fact, there has been coordination with our brothers in Jordan because Jordan constitutes half of the negotiating delegation. Our coordination and cooperation with Jordan is conducted on all levels. It is a full coordination, which will continue to serve the interests of both sides of the delegation.

Baker Role Welcomed as End to Balfour Legacy

PM0511142391 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Nov 91 pp 1, 4

[Ghassan Shirbil report: "Balfour Declaration... and Baker Declaration"]

[Text] If the Arab memory is busy with painful appointments, the Palestinian memory is characterized by unhealable wounds. True, the sufferings of one day remind you of the sufferings of the previous day. But it is also true that in the chain of suffering there are incidents which are similar to nothing except themselves:

November 2, 1917: Lord Arthur Balfour, her [as published] majesty's foreign minister, pledges Britain's support for the establishment of a national homeland for the Jews in Palestine. On that day the smell of calamity began to spread.

November 2, 1991: A long distance and a lot of suffering between the Balfour declaration and the Baker declaration. And the Palestinian delegation is holding meetings, leading a successful media offensive, and preparing for

the negotiation battle with the flexibility of someone matured by wars and battles.

And contacts are continuing between the hotel and the residence of a PLO delegation, which came to Madrid to keep abreast of the conference and then convey these contacts to Tunis by telephone or fax.

When you ask them about the Baker declaration, they prefer to talk about international legitimacy, even though they know that Baker has become a foreign minister for the new world and that it was in that capacity that he arranged the peace conference and launched the Madrid declaration.

Yesterday at a hotel in Madrid the Palestinian delegation was preparing to join in direct negotiations with Israel.

The Balfour declaration wasted the land; so will the Baker declaration return it?

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT visited the Victoria Hotel, where the Palestinian delegation is staying, and asked whether the Baker declaration was sufficient to limit the damage caused by the Balfour declaration and to end the wait for the homeland at hotels and airports and through contacts. Members of the Palestinian delegation shunned the phrase "Baker declaration" and spoke about the declaration of international legitimacy, while acknowledging U.S. leadership of the new world order.

Faysal al-Husayni just said: The Madrid conference represents a response to the Balfour declaration and refutes the claim that Palestine is a land without a people.

Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, said: No declarations from Baker. There are no declarations, except that he contributed to facilitating the process of negotiations, on a neutral basis.

He did note that Baker's address contained a "declaration" in an indirect way, since it emphasized some principles with regard to the settlements, withdrawal, the Palestinian people's rights, and the land for peace principle. And these are important to us.

'Abd-al-Shafi said that Baker had shown himself an able foreign minister who has a great ability to move and to stand fast. And I believe that he has personal ambitions and wants to make a record for himself. And he is sincere on the issue.

Zakariyya al-Agha said: We are expecting declarations from no one. We have inalienable rights and have come to Madrid to demand them from the United States and the rest of the world. We hope through the peace march to be able to recover these rights.

Sami al-Kilani said: We expect Baker to show that he is serious, that the question is not simply one of making a declaration, and that the peace process can lead to ending the injustice inflicted on our people as a result of the Balfour declaration.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman Hamad said: We are here to express our people's will, and we have Palestinian right and the constants. The present stage prompts political struggle, and we hope that right—whether you call it Baker's declaration or the international community's declaration—will prevail.

Radio Opposes Transfer of Peace Talks Venue

LD0511221791 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Unattributed station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, with the end of the first round of bilateral talks between the Arab delegations and the Israeli delegation in Madrid yesterday, the issue of peace in the Middle East, together with the hopes of the people in the region and the world, remain suspended between the ambiguity of time and place, which the Israeli negotiators are trying to put as a stumbling block in front of the development of the peace process; a process which has started its long marathon—its 1,000-mile journey—toward realizing the hopes and aspirations of the peoples of this region, which has suffered a lot and for long from the absence of peace. Despite the desire of the Arab side to have the talks conducted at a neutral location, the Israeli side remained adamant on transferring these talks to the Middle East, with the aim of normalizing Arab-Israeli relations. This is a matter that is very difficult for the Arabs and Palestinians to accept before Israel provides something that could convince them to take such a step, since Israel is still in possession of Arab lands and rights.

Our old man to the Madrid talks, Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, was keen to emphasize in an interview broadcast by Jordan TV yesterday that self-government [hukm dhati], which the Palestinians accept now, is not the end of the matter, but a step to be followed by other steps within the time framework of a timetable prepared in advance, which ultimately leads to the building of the state and the fulfillment of national independence.

This assertion by the head of our negotiating delegation to Madrid comes at a time when Israel is trying to suggest that self-government is the end of the matter for the Palestinians. Dr 'Abd-al-Shafi affirmed that there are priorities for negotiations, and the Palestinians must raise the question of the need to stop settlement as an indication that self-government is but a phase in a series of phases leading in the end to national independence.

Mr 'Abd-al-Shafi further pointed out that the negotiations are decisive steps, the first one of which is an agreement on an agenda for the start and the finish. He did not conceal the fact that attaining this goal will be extremely difficult, but he emphasized that relief is coming very soon, and called on people to be patient and diligent.

In the light of the firm principles affirmed by Dr 'Abd-al-Shafi, the dubious dimensions of the Israeli proposal

become apparent. They are trying to make self-government an end in itself. Also, the need to enhance the mode of coordination among the Arab delegations is confirmed, especially over the coming phases, during which negotiations will be decisive, in order to block Israeli attempts to split the Arab arena, play on the string of differences, and then slip away from implementing international legitimacy.

We think that before talking about transferring the negotiations to the Middle East, and before the start of normalization with the Arabs, Israel must pledge to respect the resolutions of international legitimacy, in particular, Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 , and implement them according to an agreed timetable. Without that, it is not possible for the peace process to pass the threshold of Israeli prevarication.

PLO Denies Transferring Fighters to South Iraq

JN0511160291 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Nov 91 p 1

[Text] Tunis, WAFA [Palestinian News Agency]—The PLO has denied reports carried by Iranian media on an agreement to move Palestinian fighters to southern Iraq.

In a statement in this regard, the PLO's official spokesman said these reports are untrue and unfounded.

The official spokesman added: This was not the first time these media have tried to sell such false and unfounded reports to engender global animosity against the Palestinian people and their just causes. These reports seek to cover the Iranian authorities' abandonment of their moral and religious duties toward the issue of Holy Jerusalem, their trading-in of Islam and Islamic slogans, and also to cover for their position during the Gulf crisis.

He added: These anti-Arab papers reflect the policies and conduct of certain ruling and rancorous centers of Iranian authority which sought, and still seek, to deepen division in the ranks of the Arab and Muslim nations.

He asserted that the PLO, which continues to lead its people in their national struggle through a fifth year of the blessed intifadah to liberate Holy Jerusalem and the other Islamic and Christian sacred places, affirms the nobility of Palestinian military values, which know, more than these cheap trumpets, that the enemy is not in southern or northern Iraq; rather, the enemy is the one who occupies the land of Palestine and seeks to Judaize it.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Uncertainty Over Formal SAARC Meeting Continues

Foreign Ministers Meet 5 Nov

BK0511162091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] The formal meeting of the foreign ministers of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries began in Colombo this evening. It followed marathon informal consultations among the foreign ministers in the wake of the nonparticipAtion of the king of Bhutan.

As already reported, the meeting of the council of foreign ministers scheduled to begin this morning had been put off to enable discussion on the nonparticipating of the king of Bhutan in the summit. The 10th session of the Council of Ministers is reported to be continuing discussions under the chairmanship of the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr. Harold Herath. A Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the heads of the government of SAARC countries are still discussing the nonparticipation of the king of Bhutan in the summit. It may be mentioned that the SAARC charter demands a participation by all the seven heads of government in a summit to make any declaration valid. The summit is due to begin on Thursday.

Ministers Hold Informal Talks

BK0611074991 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] The South Asian foreign ministers postponed their formal meeting in Colombo today and instead engaged in hectic informal discussions in the light of uncertainty about the holding of the summit scheduled to begin tomorrow. The Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the Bhutan issue remains unresolved and the uncertainty continues. Correspondents in Colombo expect an indication of the outcome of the informal discussions later today.

Meanwhile, the Nepal Government is in touch with the SAARC member countries over the issue of participation by their leader in the summit. Our Kathmandu correspondent reports the matter was considered at a high-level meeting at the residence of the Nepalese prime minister, Mr. Koirala, this morning. According to official sources in Kathmandu, the decision on the matter is likely to be taken by this evening.

Possible Formal Summit Delay Viewed

BK0611051491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0455 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Colombo, Nov 6 (AFP)—South Asian leaders Wednesday kept Colombo guessing over their participation in a scheduled summit which has been threatened by the withdrawal of the King of Bhutan, officials and diplomats here said.

Leaders from the seven nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) were due to begin arriving here Wednesday but there were still concerns whether Thursday's summit could go ahead, officials said.

They said King Jigme Singye Wangchuck had confirmed that "domestic compulsions" would keep him away from the three-day summit due to open Thursday.

Diplomatic sources said Indian Premier P.V. Narasimha Rao, who was due to show up in Colombo just for the inauguration of the summit, again because of domestic pressures, may not come here after all.

Indian officials said they believed there was "little point" in attending the conference without the king, one of the two founding members still in the regional organisation.

Analysts suggested the king was annoyed because he was the only leader not to have been personally invited to the summit by Sri Lanka. Colombo's Foreign Minister Harold Herat and Foreign Secretary Bernard Tilakaratna visited all SAARC capitals except Thimpu to deliver President Ranasinghe Premadasa's invitation.

"Sri Lanka has only itself to blame if the summit cannot be held. Colombo has not observed the usual protocol in inviting the King," a diplomat attending the conference said.

Diplomatic sources have expressed fears that the summit may be downgraded with the abstention of a head of state and point out that the SAARC charter would be violated if the Bhutanese King keeps away.

There was no official confirmation on reports that some delegates had asked for a postponement of the meet to enable the king to attend.

A foreign ministry spokesman here said late Tuesday that leaders of SAARC, which groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, continued consultations over the king's decision.

"The matter is yet under consideration between the heads of state and government of SAARC. If the king is unable to attend personally, it is hoped that his representative will attend the meeting," the spokesman said.

Nepal Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala was scheduled to be the first SAARC leader to arrive here but diplomats said he missed his flight out of Kathmandu for a connection from Bangkok. His plans were not immediately clear.

An official source in Dhaka said Tuesday that Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia would leave for Colombo as scheduled Wednesday.

The foreign ministry spokesman read out a brief statement as foreign ministers continued their delayed meeting Tuesday to prepare the agenda for the summit.

The council itself has been downgraded without the participation of full foreign ministers from India and Bhutan.

This year's summit was expected to focus on economy, cooperation between the member countries and poverty alleviation in one of the world's poorest regions.

SAARC Summit Officially Postponed

BK0611094291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, received a message this afternoon from President Gayoom of the Maldives, who is chairman of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], informing him that the Colombo summit cannot be held from tomorrow as scheduled. President Gayoom has come to this conclusion after extensive consultations among SAARC member countries in view of the king of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuk's inability to attend the summit due to domestic preoccupation. The SAARC chairman will hold further consultations on fresh dates for the postponed summit. The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, will therefore not be going to Colombo to attend the summit.

Postponement 'Serious Snub' to Premadasa

BK0611120491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1120 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Colombo, Nov 6 (AFP)—The last-minute indefinite postponement Wednesday of a South Asian leaders' summit scheduled to open in the Sri Lankan capital Thursday is seen here as a serious snub to host President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Foreign ministers of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), who began a meeting here Tuesday, postponed the summit indefinitely after failing to agree on staging it without the King of Bhutan, who has said he will not attend.

King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, who celebrates his 36th birthday Monday, cited domestic compulsions for his decision to pull out of the summit.

Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao reacted by saying he too would not attend. Indian officials said there was "little point" in him attending without the king, one of the two founding members still in the regional organisation.

The stormy Council of Ministers meeting was itself downgraded because of the absence of foreign ministers from India and the Himalayan Buddhist kingdom of Bhutan.

Bhutan's Foreign Secretary T.J. Riskin attended talks here while India sent State Minister for External Affairs Eduardo Faleiro.

Colombo officials said Premadasa had taken a personal interest in the arrangements and until late Tuesday had been directing officials and seeing to minor details like seating.

"Because of the intimate interest he took, the disappointment will be greater," a local official said.

A SAARC diplomat close to the Council of Ministers said that, as a compromise, the leaders of Bangladesh, the Maldives and Pakistan would visit the Sri Lankan capital shortly "as a goodwill gesture in view of the elaborate arrangements" made by Colombo.

"They will come here for bilateral talks to show their goodwill," the diplomat said.

Diplomatic sources and political analysts believe the reasons behing the Bhutanese king's decision to stay away went far deeper than the fact that Colombo failed to observe correct protocol in inviting the Buddhist monarch.

"This looks more like a tit-for-tat and Premadasa is getting it back in kind," an Asian diplomat said, referring to the Sri Lankan President's absence from the 1990 summit in the Maldives capital of Male.

Premadasa missed his turn to host the summit soon after assuming office in 1989, saying he could not stage the regional meeting with self-respect while Indian troops were deployed in his island republic.

His move led to a major dispute between Sri Lanka, India and other SAARC countries, and prompted Maldives Foreign Minister Fathullah Jameel to remark that the organisation had violated its own charter by failing to hold a summit that year.

The Maldives hosted the fifth SAARC meeting in November 1990 after much wrangling with Colombo. Premadasa's last minute decision to withdraw and send his prime minister to the Male summit reduced the stature of that conference.

A leftist political party here said the indefinite postponement of this year's summit here was an "ignominious blow" to Premadasa who had been "looking forward to it like a child."

A spokesman for the Nava Sama Samaja Party (NSSP) said SAARC leaders' decision to keep away showed they had "no respect or regard for Premadasa and his regime."

"This is the regional impeachment of Premadasa," said NSSP leader Vasudeva Nanayakkara, referring to failed moves here by the opposition and a faction of the ruling party to impeach the president in August.

"This could not have come at a worse time. He was trying to boost his image locally by hosting the summit. Now that it has failed, he must be broken man," Nanayakkarta said.

The pro-government People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam said the postponement was a "serious blow to Premadasa and affected Sri Lanka's relations with SAARC countries."

SAARC diplomatic circles believe Colombo bungled by failing to follow the correct protocol in inviting the Bhutanese king, which in turn led to the collapse of the summit. The king was the only SAARC leader not to be invited personally by Sri Lankan envoys.

"Sri Lanka has only itself to blame. Colombo has not observed the usual protocol in inviting the king," one diplomat attending the conference said.

Colombo's Foreign Minister Harold Herat and Foreign Secretary Bernard Tilakaratna visited every SAARC capital, except Bhutan's capital of Thimpu, to deliver Premadasa's personal invitation to leaders.

Algeria

Ghozali on FLN Role, Relations With France

PM0411123691 Paris LE MONDE in French 1 Nov 91 pp 1, 8

[Interview with Algerian Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali by correspondents Jean-Marie Colombani and Georges Marion in Algiers—date not given]

[Excerpts] Algiers—[LE MONDE] You have just waged a battle in the assembly against a large majority of National Liberation Front [FLN] deputies who rejected your electoral plans. You and they seem to have two different policies. In these circumstances, why are you still a member of the FLN Central Committee?

[Ghozali] I think that the FLN, as the representative of a set of values, has an essential role to play in the democratic process. I do not have any problems with the FLN's grass-roots members or its cadres, but rather with policies and practices which have left the country in a pitiful state and which they are obstinately trying to impose on me. This is unacceptable. The fact that one room in the FLN's house is wrongly occupied should not necessarily make me abandon it.

[LE MONDE] But is it really in your interests to stay in it in view of the fact that it has been discredited?

[Ghozali] If I was only thinking of myself, it would certainly not be in my interests. But that is not the case. I am the head of an independent government and I attach importance to carrying out one stage of the democratic process. I intend to establish the right conditions for change in a credible way. That imposes responsibilities on me.

[LE MONDE] Some people think that you should build a movement to support your policy to bring together several political parties which do not have enough influence on their own. They say that would enable you to build an alternative to the old system which is not the only radical Islamic alternative.

[Ghozali] Creating a movement means falling into a mistake which I have always condemned. A head of government is there to run the country's affairs. My approach may be utopian, but thinking only of your own interests when you have the job of cleaning things up has been tried—and it has led us to disaster. It is therefore not valid.

[LE MONDE] Does that mean that you are limiting your own ambitions until after the election?

[Ghozali] I could also say who not to vote for. Why not? Aside from last June's municipal elections, the Algerians have hitherto experienced elections which did not have decisive effects. They have lost all awareness of the influence their vote can have. It is this awareness which I want to restore to them. I hope to convince them that voting is the only way of effectively exercising the power they are demanding.

More than anything, the country needs to change its method of government, and God knows that this "anything,"—in other words oil on the table, potatoes on your plate, education, and so forth—is important.

[LE MONDE] Algerian officials often express surprise that France seems to be losing interest in Algeria. Do you believe that criticism is well-founded? What is the state of relations between France and Algeria?

[Ghozali] I am forced to note that the same question still remains between our two countries: What exactly is France's Algerian policy? Does Paris regard us as a commercial partner, a neighbor with which it intends to trade more and more in the course of time, or does it see Algeria as a former colony which has become independent but which should be contained at a certain level?

In November 1988, when I was finance minister, I put this question to Mr. Beregovoy, with whom I think I have established a relationship of trust. At the time we had many disputes and I said to him and to Roland Dumas: Let us stop classifying each other as anti-French or anti-Algerian. That's old hat. Let us be pro-French and pro-Algerian—that will be the best way of working together to develop our common interests. Our two countries need to overcome this unhealthy ambiguity which has all too often characterized their relations. I want to make them routine, not to reduce them to a lower level but to be objective about them so that they can start developing again.

[LE MONDE] What will get them going again?

[Ghozali] I have requested aid for our balance of payments. Do not forget that the plan to refinance our debt was adopted in February 1989 by Francois Mitterrand and Chadli Bendjedid, the two heads of state. And, since that date, the affair has still not been settled.

[LE MONDE] The agreement has just been signed, however....

[Ghozali] Its scope has gradually shrunk, the sums initially proposed have been reduced, and the money has still not arrived. Does this mean that we are allowed to have our nose just above water but no more than that?

I recognize that Algeria also bears some responsibility in this affair. We should not have put all our eggs in one basket. But why do I have the right to ask France this question? Because I do not understand how we have managed to do with Italy what we still have not managed to do with France.

Perhaps France lacks imagination toward Algeria. That is why I am opposed to the term "preferential relations." These are destructive terms which perpetuate ambiguity and which, in the final analysis, do not serve either of our two countries. I say frankly to our French partner: we are

in a tunnel, but Algeria will soon emerge from it. It will then remember who helped it out of the tunnel. What I am saying to you I also said to Mr. Beregovoy, in friendly but determined terms.

[LE MONDE] What was his answer?

[Ghozali] That he would think about it. And I understood that he needed to consult on this matter. [passage omitted]

[LE MONDE] The director general of the IMF recently made a statement which was very favorable to you. He said that Algeria should be given aid and that the IMF had confidence in that country....

[Ghozali] He has apparently not yet been heeded. The agreement signed with the IMF last April by the previous government is a conventional kind of agreement. In all events, that agreement, which is binding on my government, can only be useful and meaningful if it forms part of a broader action. The unfortunate thing is that our policy is reduced to this channel only. The conditions which the IMF is imposing on us, however, are standard conditions (devaluation, price increases, the formation of currency reserves, and so forth) which do not take account of Algeria's potential.

[LE MONDE] Does this system give you the feeling that you have no room to maneuver, that you are being hampered in the policy that you would like to implement?

[Ghozali] But that is not the IMF's fault. It is ourselves that I am blaming. As finance minister (in Kasdi Merbah's government in 1988—LE MONDE editor's note) the first thing I did was to call the IMF director to ask him to help me during the period I needed to redeploy my own resources. The IMF was in full agreement and cooperated. Unfortunately, the approach was not continued when I left the Finance Ministry. And yet, at the time, the IMF agreed with our analysis, namely that Algeria had the means of avoiding rescheduling.

[LE MONDE] Is that no longer the case?

[Ghozali] The IMF judges you on the basis of your own political vision. As soon as the Algerian Government tells it that it intends to solve its problems by managing and regulating foreign trade by means of the exchange rate, the lifting of price restraints, and so forth, the IMF takes it at its word. That is what happened with the previous government (Mouloud Hamrouche's government—LE MONDE editor's note). If it had said that it was envisaging other means, I am sure that the IMF would have imposed less drastic conditions on it. But it did not say that and I inherited specific conditions which I must now respect.

[LE MONDE] One of the outstanding problems between Algeria and France is that of immigration, and the Algerian economic situation which it is thought will continue to fuel the flow of immigrants, and the political controversy in France over the this situation.

[Ghozali] This is a question of which we are very aware. You know that there has never been any question of Algeria solving its economic problems by exporting labor, and we do not intend to go back on that policy. The Algerians must create the right conditions in their country for their people to stay at home.

Unfortunately, immigration is an extremely profitable political issue in France. What can we do? Turn to Europe, not on our own but at a Maghreb level to discuss the issue at the regional rather than bilateral level. Although we can understand that you prefer to welcome your own people rather than foreigners, we can ask that the Maghreb immigrant community should not be the hostage of electoral clashes in each election.

I think that one way of combating this use of immigrants for electoral purposes is to give them the right to vote, if only in local elections. This could work in several ways, including making the immigrants more responsible. It is the main weapon against the xenophobic tendency which now affects increasingly broad sectors on the right and the left.

[LE MONDE] There was marked discord between France and Algeria during the Gulf war. How do you now assess that affair, in view of the fact that the positive effect of the war seems to be the peace conference which has opened in Madrid?

[Ghozali] That affair very quickly went beyond the question of relations between our two countries and encompassed our relations with Europe as a whole. This is not only a wound to be healed but a precedent to be considered. The question that Europe must ask is that of its position in the new world order. What does Europe want to do and what does it want to be? That is a question which is of great concern to us. A European entity is a guarantee of stability for the world. It is not that we wanted to cast the Americans as the villains, but it is in the nature of things. Having a single superpower in the world is not a stabilizing factor. Europe's absence from the new configuration demonstrates a new international order which is even more worrisome than the previous one.

[LE MONDE] Possibly, but the Americans have succeeded in imposing negotiations in the Near East. Do you think that this conference is a good thing, or rather negotiations which will disregard the essential issues without solving anything?

[Ghozali] There is a proverb in our country which says that you must follow the liar to his door. To verify the sincerity of an initiative, you must give it a chance. At this stage you can only point out that it is serious. But is it sincere? We will only know that later. It may also be a way of saying "I have tried, as I promised to do, but I was unable to succeed." Without wishing to quibble, I think that both are still possible.

African Development Bank Extends $63 Million Loan

LD0311232791 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Algeria benefited from a loan of $63 million and not $260 million as I inadvertently said in the headlines. The loan is from the African Development Bank. The loan agreement was signed this evening. Mohamed Lamine Bentouati reports:

[Bentouati] The agreement valued at $63 million was signed on behalf of the Algerian side by Mr. Ali Benouari, the minister delegate at the Treasury, and Mr. Baracar N'Diaye, chairman of the African Development Bank. The loan will be devoted to financing the project of digging a tunnel for two railway lines in the Yachir region of Bordj Bou Arreridj Province. Work on this project is expected to start at the beginning of the coming year, 1992. The loan will be paid back in 20 years at varying interest rates which amount to 7.75 percent per year. Algeria has benefited from several loans from the African Development Bank to implement several development projects in the various provinces of the homeland. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Washington, Moscow Said Venues for Further Talks

NC0611063791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2153 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper reports in its edition to be published tomorrow that nearly full agreement has been reached on a date and venue for resuming bilateral and multilateral peace talks. The paper says it almost has been decided to resume the bilateral talks in Washington during the third week of this month—20 or 22 November—and that the multilateral talks will be held at a later date, which current consultations will decide.

The paper says Moscow is likely to be the venue for the multilateral negotiations, provided that a final decision is made on Washington as the venue of bilateral negotiations, as the United States and the Soviet Union co-chair and sponsor the conference.

The paper reports that intense contacts now are under way between the two (?sponsor) countries on the one hand and a number of wealthy states which (?have) vital interests in the Middle East on the other to participate in the multilateral meetings and committees, particularly Japan, Canada, the EC, Saudi Arabia, and the rest of the Gulf states. The paper says the responses received from these countries affirm their readiness to participate in the multilateral negotiations, especially in the negotiations dealing with development, investment, technology transfer, and regional cooperation.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says a $15-billion plan has been devised to develop the Middle Eastern countries and that the money will be procured from the wealthy participant countries which have an interest in developing the region and ensuring its stability and peace.

The paper notes that a debate will be held over certain development plans concerning agriculture, water, and industrial development of the region's needy countries during the multilateral talks in which the two sponsoring countries will participate.

Papers Evaluate Cairo's Role at Madrid Talks

NC0211103891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0627 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 2 Nov (MENA)—Cairo papers today continue to comment on the Middle East peace conference, which ended its first stage in Madrid yesterday.

AL-JUMHURIYAH and AL-AHRAM discuss the stands of the conference participants and how they differ, especially Egypt's position, which stresses the need to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

AL-JUMHURIYAH asks: What will happen after the stands have been determined? It says this is a question which Arab and international public opinion is trying to answer at the end of the conference's first stage.

The paper notes that the conference has begun one of its difficult stages, the bilateral negotiations which Israel suggested be initiated immediately in the region. But, it says, it was decided to hold them in Madrid, the skies of which were filled with talk of peace and with mixed intentions and impassioned words.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says the world's optimists and pessimists alike are expecting measures followed by accomplishments so that peace and stability will be closer to reality. The first of these measures, the paper adds, would be for Israel to lessen the impact of Yitzhaq Shamir's negative speech on public opinion and initiate a halt to settlement building in the occupied land, which it very well knows it has no right to keep.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says that the Madrid circles are unanimous that the Arab delegations' speeches were composed, logical, and expressed facts emanating from the real situation. This, it adds, is a good thing which we must continue and consolidate, because the forthcoming phases of the conference are the most serious and sensitive ones, because each side will attempt to turn his conditions into elements of settlement.

AL-AHRAM points out that the invitation sent to Egypt to attend the peace conference as a participant, although it is not a direct party, gives Egypt the same characteristics as the three categories of countries invited; namely the characteristics of a party, associate, and observer.

Therefore, the paper notes, in the bilateral talks Egypt resembles one who is absent and present at the same time—one whose presence is always felt, especially because it has accumulated experience in negotiating

with the Israelis and even with the Arab brothers. This is regarded as an asset which can be resorted to in cases of crisis or impasse to overcome similar obstacles, because previous experience is always in mind.

The paper says Egypt is a party, although it has no official status at the bilateral talks, because of its affiliation with the Arab side, because it had been a party to reconciliation with Israel, and because its influence in the region is bound to impart a similar influence over the conference, especially since the conference's outcome primarily concerns Egypt. The paper says Egypt will be an associate and direct party to the multilateral talks that will deal with the region's broader issues.

AL-AHRAM adds that Egypt has been a prominent partner in the entire peace process since it first engaged in it with Israel and that it participated in the efforts to bring together all parties at the Madrid talks. This, the paper adds, required Egypt to exert strenuous efforts, through which it managed to overcome numerous obstacles it faced with various countries, even with the big powers, in its attempts to bring the parties together.

The paper emphasizes that the accomplishments made because of Egypt made Egypt's actual participation in pursuing the process a necessary requirement. Thus, the paper says, the role of participant given to Egypt deservedly truly symbolized its role in continuing efforts to bring peace to the region.

Mubarak Addresses Supreme Court Jurists

NC0311153991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Ismailia, 2 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today met Supreme Judiciary Council members, headed by Counselor Ibrahim Radwan, head of the Court of Cassation, at the headquarters of the new judiciary complex in Ismailia.

Also attending were Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, Justice Minister, Counsellor Faruq Sayf-al-Nasr, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, Ismailia Mayor Ahmad Juwayli, and members of the judiciary and prosecution in Ismailia.

Mr. Safwat al-Sharif said that President Mubarak expressed his gratitude to the judiciary and general prosecution, adding that members of the judiciary are a source of honor of which he and Egypt are proud.

President Mubarak said that the judiciary in Egypt are highly appreciated for their sacrifices, and that the judiciary council is sacred and respected.

Al-Sharif said that President Mubarak dealt with domestic and foreign affairs, and that the meeting was clear, honest and frank.

He said that President Mubarak explained that Egypt's foreign stands are considered a pillar supporting national domestic action, growth and construction.

President Mubarak clarified that Egypt's relations and foreign policies, based on awareness and confidence, reflect Egypt's weight and credibility. He said the world appreciates Egypt's stances on international and regional issues.

Al-Sharif said President Mubarak addressed peace, reviewing the Palestine question and the Middle East cause since 1948, the history of the Arab-Israeli struggle, and Arab-Israeli wars until the victory of 1973. The president discussed the post-1973 October war, President al-Sadat's initiative, and the beginning of the peace process, explaining the difficult Arab stand.

President Mubarak affirmed that the road to peace is difficult, adding that Egypt has always been the one qualified to take decisive and definitive stands in war or peace, justly and fairly.

President Mubarak dealt with the Palestinian issue, explaining that when he deals with it, explains the peace agreements, or the section on Palestinians in the Camp David accord, he does so to explain them to generations which did not experience them.

The president explained the second section of the Camp David accord, supposed to have been accomplished by the end of 1983, defining the stages of self-government, and which could have led to the Israeli forces' withdrawal, local Arab police taking on security duties on the West Bank and Gaza Sector, and Palestinians' legitimate rights being recognized.

President Mubarak emphasized that peace did not jeopardize Egypt's stand on restoring the Arab right and supporting the Palestinian issue, saying that Egypt is firm on Jerusalem in every phase.

He dealt with the peace conference, which wound up in Madrid, and the enormous effort that went into convening it as a step toward the peace process to attain Arab and Palestinian rights.

The president detailed the conference, events behind the scenes, and efforts to overcome the problems to begin bilateral negotiations.

He said that negotiations will be difficult, requiring patience and determination to attain legitimate and inalienable rights.

Egypt, said the president, is participating in the conference and bilateral committees to help the parties achieve a just and comprehensive peace, overcoming the problems confronting the discussions. He said that Egypt is clear on adhering to international legitimacy represented by UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and the principle of land for peace.

President Mubarak emphasized that Egypt is clear on halting settlement-building in the West Bank and Gaza Sector. He said that Jerusalem is not only an Arab issue but also an Islamic and Christian one. He indicated that Jerusalem embraces the three religions' holy places, and

that failure to resolve this will increase fanaticism—a sensitive issue for every Muslim and Christian.

President Mubarak stressed that Egypt's policy is characterized by commitment to justice, principles, and sincerity, and that Egypt rejects any interference in its affairs, does not accept pressure, and that its principles are clear to the whole world.

On Egypt's international relations, he said that every decision taken by Egypt is based on an assessment of stands and accurate calculations, taking into account that any decision must emanate from and agree with the people's will. He noted that Egyptian decision reflects the nation's conscience, and is not an individual or minority decision.

The president went on to say: I do not allow any one-upmanship at the expense of the people's interest. We could never take a decision that conflicts with public interest or endangers the nation. He said that no one is thinking of pressuring Egypt, which respects its decisions, protects its territories' sovereignty, and does not accept any military base being set up on its territories.

President Mubarak explained Arab relations before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the invasion's dimensions and aims, and the consequences and divisions it has created in the Arab nation. He said that Egypt's stand was principled from the start, stemming from Arab values and principles, and that Egypt decided the issue by supporting justice.

The president explained the sincere efforts made to spare Iraq more dangers, for the sake of the Iraqi people and Army, but these were rejected by the Iraqi regime. He said that Iraq had not correctly assessed the international, Arab, or Egyptian stands, forgetting that Egypt is the heart of the Arab nation, that it will never be a military or political tool in others' hands, and that Egypt never relinquishes a right or makes concessions over a principle for a return.

Every day, he said, reveals new secrets and facts about the Gulf crisis and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He added: I am saying this because knowledge of the truth lights the way for the future. The Iraqi regime keeps trying to cover up and inflict harm without learning a lesson from what happened to it.

President Mubarak talked about firm and distinguisned Egyptian relations with the sisterly Arab countries, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and all countries in the Arabian Gulf: Kuwait, Qatar, and Bahrain. He also referred to firm relations between Egypt and the Libyan Jamahiriyah, and mutual respect for the Arab Maghreb countries.

The president explained that Egypt religiously performs its Arab and Islamic roles without one-upmanship. Al-Azhar Mosque is the lighthouse of Islam and the faithful guardian of its principles and teachings, he said, adding that Egypt always protects Islam from one-upmanship and slander, to continue respected and sanctified.

The president said that in the new world order Egypt maintains good international relations based on mutual respect, helping the world support Egypt's economic reform programs. The good relations also helped international economic institutions write off Egypt's military debts, particularly to the United States, and to reduce debts to many other countries.

He explained the steps of domestic economic reform and that it had to match Egyptian society's circumstances to preserve the standard of living. He pointed out that this year witnessed new economic measures, making it a difficult year, domestically and internationally. The coming years of economic reform, he said, would be better, balancing prices and salaries.

Egypt, said the president, is seeking to establish an economy based on stable principles which would strengthen national action. He pointed out that economic stability begins social reform and stability, providing the pillar for greater freedom and democracy.

President Mubarak said that democracy and freedom form the security valve for national stability, the basis of prosperity and economic growth, and that there are some elements which target Egypt's security and stability, threatening its relations with the outside world.

He concluded that Egypt always considers its national responsibility, placing pan-Arab interests before any other consideration.

'Active' U.S. Role in Bilateral Talks Encouraged

NC0211110291 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 31 Oct 91 p 6

[Column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "The U.S. Role in Madrid"]

[Text] The first days of the Madrid conference are not expected to achieve many results, except for the known stands voiced at the opening speeches which will reveal the maximum demands of each of the parties.

The real substance of the Madrid conference—that is the talks at the bilateral level between Israel and the Arab parties, if they do start—will come up inside closed rooms and away from television cameras and photographers' lenses. At this stage, the question might arise about the role to be played by the sponsoring countries, the United States and the Soviet Union, particularly about the role of the United States, which from the beginning has shouldered the responsibility for getting the warring parties to the negotiating table.

It is inconceivable that the United States will take a neutral stand during these talks or have its role limited to arranging the seats, facilitating contacts, fixing the number of the delegations' numbers in the various

sessions, or helping to set the date and venue for the bilateral talks following the conclusion of the opening ceremonies.

Washington has attached great importance to getting the warring parties together for the first time, and this is the only reason for describing this meeting a "historic one," though it is known that secret separate contacts between Israel and these parties had preceded the conference. Yet the real importance of the effectiveness of the U.S. role—and to a lesser degree that of the Soviet, Arab, European, and UN roles—will materialize during the detailed discussions of issues and proposed solutions for every one of the clauses of the dispute.

At this moment it is unclear to what extent the U.S. stands will influence the progress of the negotiations or the proposed solutions. The United States, for example, does not support the establishment of a Palestinian state, does not recognize Israel's annexation of Jerusalem, and does not approve the building of settlements and considers them illegal. The United States believes that the principle of land for peace is the logical explanation for Resolution 242.

But will the United States support these stands during the conference and regard them as principles over which there can be no bargaining? Or will it be content to be a spectator, a neutral mediator, or the messenger? In other words, will the United States use its influence—in its capacity as the influential and active party and the one tacitly entrusted by all the international parties and those involved in the conflict—to decide the negotiations at a specific stage and underline these principles as the basis for the solution? Or will the talks continue endlessly and possibly stop at the first hurdle?

The clear fact is this: The two principal parties in the negotiations, and we mean Israel and the Palestinians, went to Madrid only under intense pressure, especially Israel. If the United States does not perform its role fully, then the conference might end where it has started.

Mubarak To Visit Syria 'Soon'

NC0511125891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] The Qatari newspaper AL-SHARQ has cited Egyptian sources as saying that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will visit Damascus soon for talks with his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad on convening a nine-state Arab summit.

The paper also says that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat will visit Cairo and a number of other Arab capitals in the next few days.

Israeli Settlement in Golan Heights Denounced

NC0511192091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1820 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—Egypt has denounced Israel's announcement yesterday that it plans to open a new settlement in the Syrian Golan Heights as a flagrant violation of the Security Council resolutions and the 1949 Geneva Convention.

The Egyptian Foreign Ministry released a statement on this issue in which it expressed Egypt's extreme rebuke of these measures which, the statement reads, aim to change the nature of the occupied Arab territories and contradict the current peace efforts, the outset of which were witnessed in Madrid.

Egypt called on Israel to bear its historic responsibility to seize this opportunity to reach peace in the region and not allow the tendencies toward expansion to waste this chance and frustrate the Middle East peace efforts.

Israeli 'Spy' Reportedly Arrested

NC0511091591 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 4 Nov 91 p 8

[Text] The Egyptian General Intelligence Service has arrested an Israeli spy who was operating in Egypt as an Egyptian citizen and a member of the Wafd Party. A member of the Egyptian Human Rights Organization was also arrested after hiding for some time at the Israeli Consulate in Alexandria.

Mubarak, Sidqi Receive Hungarian Prime Minister

LD0511204791 Budapest MTI in English 1639 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, November 5 (MTI)—Economic restructuring in Egypt and Hungary are at a similar stage in certain respects, the Hungarian and Egyptian prime ministers, Jozsef Antall and 'Atif Sidqi, agreed during their Tuesday talks.

The dismantling of the centralized economic structure and the switch to a market-driven economy are in the spotlight in both countries, as is the development of the private sector. For this reason, the Hungarian experience is especially important to Egypt, said Government spokesman Balazs Laszlo, quoting the Egyptian prime minister.

The spokesman said that the many-sided talks, marked by a constructive spirit, covered political and economic issues, as well as questions related to the political, strategic and security situations of the two regions.

Sidqi stressed the need to continue and increase scientific cooperation. Hungary has for long been receiving Egyptian experts for postgraduate training, mainly in the field of agricultural sciences. He attached special importance to an agreement which deals with discarding double taxation in order to encourage mutual investments, joint ventures and cooperation on third markets, primarily in Africa. The agreement is expected to be signed during Antall's visit.

Outlining Hungary's foreign policy approach, Antall restated his position at last year's Paris summit that

armies without political control represent one of the chief sources of danger. This has, unfortunately, been proven correct by the attempted Soviet coup and the Yugoslavian crisis, the spokesman quoted the prime minister.

"As Hungary is directly threatened by the Yugoslavian crisis, we have a vested interest in its peaceful settlement. We support the relevant efforts by the European Community and would like to see a firm U.S. and Soviet action as soon as possible. From the strategic point of view, the Middle East is inseparable from Europe, Antall said, referring to the Hungarian participation in the international anti-Iraqi coalition.

With social tensions between North and South likely to come into the fore in the next century, the Middle East economies should be driven onto a new, dynamic course, the Hungarian prime minister said today in his talk with Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi.

Antall also decried the extreme dangers hidden in fundamentalist tendencies now coming to prevail in international relations in the region.

Economically speaking, Hungary is a favourable partner for Egypt, Antall said. It can continue to provide experts mainly in the field of soil amelioration and wishes to go ahead with technological cooperation.

After the prime ministerial talks, Jozsef Antall met President Husni Mubarak, who hosted a lunch in honour of his guest.

Jozsef Antall started the second day of his visit to Cairo by laying a wreath on the grave of the unknown soldier and visiting the Egyptian museum of Cairo.

Bilateral Cooperation Accord Signed

NC0511212991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—Egypt and Hungary today signed an agreement to eliminate dual taxation to encourage investment among Egyptian and Hungarian businessmen.

Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz signed the agreement on Egypt's behalf while Dr. Ferenc Madl, minister of environment and private sector [title as received] signed for Hungary.

The agreement was signed at a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Sidqi in honor of Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall and his accompanying delegation at the Air Force club in Heliopolis this evening. Ministers, members of the Egyptian side at the Egyptian-Hungarian talks, and a number of senior (?Hungarian) officials concerned with cooperation between the two countries attended the dinner.

[Passage indistinct] bilateral cooperation in the fields of education, science, culture, information, tourism, youth, and sports.

The executive program of the agreement calls for encouraging the exchange of scholarship grants and (?scientific) research equipment, in addition to the exchange of [words indistinct], especially in agricultural and engineering fields.

The agreement also stipulates the exchange of artistic troupes, cultural galleries, and exhibitions.

Antall Holds News Conference

LD0511223891 Budapest MTI in English 2047 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, November 5 (MTI)—After almost 15 years Egyptian-Hungarian ties are back to normal.

In the wake of recent political changes the Hungarian Government now attaches importance to balanced relations between Israel and the Arab states, Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall said at a press conference here today. Relations with Egypt had been cut off after the 1978 Camp David agreements between Israel and Egypt.

Hungary seeks to establish diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia, Antall said, expressing his hope that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will back this effort.

Antall pointed out the similarities between Egyptian and Hungarian views on international issues, and stressed the importance of bilateral economic ties.

An Egyptian-Hungarian agreement on the elimination of double taxation is to be signed during the evening, Hungarian Minister Ferenc Madl said at the press conference.

State Secretary of the Hungarian Ministry of Culture Elemer Biszterszky announced that he will sign a cultural and scientific cooperation agreement for 1992-1994 with his Egyptian counterpart.

Further on News Conference

NC0611053091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2052 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall stressed the importance of Egyptian-Hungarian relations and saying that they are traditional. At a news conference today, Antall stressed the importance Hungary attaches to its ties and cooperation with Egypt, saying that he chose Cairo as the first Arab capital city he has visited as evidence of this importance.

Antall said his talks with President Husni Mubarak this morning lasted two hours and were followed by a working lunch. The talks, he added, were characterized as serious and the sides agreed totally on all issues discussed, especially because Egypt is both an Arab and an African state. This fact underlines the great importance the countries feel in relations and cooperation.

Dr. Antall pointed out that Hungary believes in the importance of reaching a solution to the Middle East problem that takes into consideration the recognition of Israel's existence in the region as a reality and also recognizes the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Hungary looks forward to establishing good ties with the Arab Gulf states, he said, particularly [word indistinct] Saudi Arabia and aspires a role by Egypt and President Mubarak especially because Hungary stood by the Gulf states during the crisis.

The Hungarian prime minister (?noted) the importance of the talks he held with Prime Minister Sidqi this morning during which [words indistinct] between the two countries and an executive (?program) for cultural cooperation [words indistinct] for the next three years. He emphasized the similarity between the Egyptian and Hungarian experiences in privatizing the public sector.

He noted his meeting this morning with al-Azhar Rector Shaykh Jad-al-Haq 'Ali Jad-al-Haq and praised the Hungarian Muslim ulema's role in Hungary and their research, pointing out that Islamic research in Hungary is long-standing.

Hungary is seeking to obtain membership in the EC this November, he said, adding that it will not be a full member. He emphasized the importance of the U.S. military presence [word indistinct] to maintain a balance in that continent as this is part of European security, referring to the NATO meeting scheduled to be held this week [words indistinct] between [word indistinct] and central Europe countries.

Dr. Antall denied that his country has sent any weapons to Yugoslavia or to the Yugoslav Federal Government as was reported by some media.

Antall Departs After 2-Day Visit

NC0611092691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0803 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall and his accompanying delegation left Cairo this morning at the end of their two-day visit to Egypt. During the visit, Antall met with President Husni Mubarak and held talks with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi on ways to promote bilateral relations in all fields, particularly the economic, trade, cultural, and educational spheres. The Hungarian prime minister was seen off at the airport by Dr. Sidqi and Dr. Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade.

Columnist Views 'Fifth Column' in Libya

NC0411174291 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 1 Nov 91 p 1

[Jalal Duwaydar Editorial: "A Fifth Column in Libya"]

[Text] I was extremely frustrated while reading press reports about the mistreatment and harassment to which people crossing the Libyan-Egyptian borders are subject. This behavior completely runs contrary to the aspirations of the Libyan and Egyptian peoples and violates agreements reached during summit meetings between President Husni Mubarak and brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

I am confident that such aggressive practices are carried out to abort the leading nationalist initiatives embarked upon by the leader of the Libyan revolution to promote the historic ties and unity of objective and fate between the two fraternal countries. One of these initiatives was demonstrated when Col. al-Qadhdhafi drove the bulldozer that destroyed the barriers between the two countries at the Libyan area of Musa'id.

As expected, the Egyptian leadership has risen to its pan-Arab responsibility and responded to these initiatives with national and pan-Arab enthusiasm. President Mubarak issued instructions to executive organs after the Tripoli meetings in August to open the borders to enable personnel and goods to cross uninhibited. The joint statement issued at the end of the meeting can serve as an example for Arab relations. The statement also contained an agreement on a number of immense projects to promote bilateral integration. These projects include the extension of railroad lines between Banghazi and al-Sallum, the end of customs restrictions, the increase of trade exchange, and the establishment of joint industrial projects. All these are steps chiefly aimed at strengthening ties between the Egyptian and Libyan peoples.

It seems, however, that these steps leading to integration have scared the regionalist [Shu'ubiyah] elements who are only interested in division and sowing dissension. Recent events in the border area have revealed that these groups have moved a fifth column in Libya to sabotage the rapprochement between Egypt and Libya.

Certainly, the mistreatment of those crossing the Libyan-Egyptian borders these days is the outcome of mad, reckless thinking not in accordance with Libya's stability and interest. They are trying to stop Egypt's sincere efforts to eliminate anything that would harm the image of this fraternal country abroad.

The hostile acts against the Egyptians crossing from Libya to Egypt can only be described—despite their seriousness—as childish actions targeted against the Libyan people's interests. These acts also contradict the initiatives of brother Col. al-Qadhdhafi and everything he said about lifting all restrictions and barriers between the two countries. The matter was not only confined to these acts, the fifth column had also managed to block the implementation of the joint projects agreed upon.

We ask the Libyan authorities to expose those hands which hurl bricks at Egyptian cargo and passenger cars near the borders. Some Libyan customs workers confiscate everything Egyptian passengers have. This is a

matter that needs to be explained so that the friendly relations between the two peoples will not deteriorate. In addition, the citizens of each country should feel that the decisions and initiatives are being respected and appreciated.

I hope that the Libyan and Egyptian leadership will quickly contain the situation and so that these negative practices will not further damage the fraternal relations between the two countries before matters reach a dangerous point, a point contemplated by the enemies of Arab solidarity and rapprochement in general and Egyptian-Libyan ties in particular.

Columnist Assails Libya's Jallud

NC0411140591 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 2 Nov 91 p 12

[From the "Dividing Line" column by Samir Rajab]

[Text] In Libya, they call "Major" 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud the second man, even though the last cabinet change there did not include him and Abu-Zayd 'Umar was named to the General People's Congress Secretariat (the cabinet premiership).

Because 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud is the second man, as he is called, he has wide authority. He attends a number of meetings, opens conferences, and denounces in the speeches he delivers—whether there is an occasion or not—the Arabs, the United States, Europe, and just about anything.

Jallud's problem is that he always confines himself to narrow margins and claims knowledge where he is ignorant. He believes that he finds his self-identity when he enters into arguments over various issues about which he has no definite ideas.

During the Gulf crisis and while the Iraqi ruler's behavior was causing dismay and anger in the world, 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud was holding conferences and meetings to defend Saddam Husayn's actions and predicting the latter's overwhelming victory over the United States and the coalition forces. Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's stand was different. Naturally, the course of events proved that Jallud was living in another world.

The Union of Arab Pharmacists' [UAP] conference was held a few days ago in Libya. It was organized by the General Union of Pharmacists there under the slogan: "The role of Arab pharmacists in developing performance and organizing seminars on the pharmaceutical industry in the Arab countries." Egypt was represented by a delegation from the General Union of Egyptian Pharmacists. It was led by Dr. Yusuf 'Izz-al-Din and comprised 58 pharmacists.

Jallud opened the conference with a fierce attack on Egypt and its people, using the harshest and most slanderous expressions, as if he had forgotten that the present relations between the Egyptian and Libyan peoples are good and that borders between them are open. Jallud went to the extent of describing Egypt as defeatist. He reiterated several times the expression, "the Camp David Egypt". He also labelled late President Anwar al-Sadat a traitor because he signed this agreement and because of his insistence on achieving peace in the Middle East. Jallud then exceeded his own limits again when he said that "the Egyptians" are dead and that there is no real opposition in Egypt except for Muslim extremists.

Naturally, Jallud's words shocked the Egyptian delegation, the members of which thought they were coming to a neighboring and friendly country, particularly as they never thought there would be two conflicting stands in Libya—one represented by Col. al- Qadhdhafi and the other by Jallud. The result was that the Egyptian delegation members voiced their protest against this attack on Egypt and denounced this base method of dialogue. Some members even insisted on leaving the conference hall, but their colleagues calmed them down until all could see how the matter would end.

The bad intentions immediately appeared when Libya's representative, Dr. 'Ali Ibrahim, spoke and continued the list of abuses begun by Jallud. He launched his attack on Egypt and its people through expressions which paralleled Jallud's. In the end, he proposed that the UAP headquarters be moved from Cairo to Damascus. Since every party was looking for a role for itself, Dr. 'Abd-al-Ghani Wafa' al-Barid, dean of the Damascus College of Pharmacy and Syria's representative, rushed to support his Libyan colleague and was joined in this by the Jordanian representative. Finally, the resolutions were issued which appointed 'Ali Ibrahim chairman of the UAP and 'Abd-al-Ghani Wafa' al-Barid secretary general for four years. They are assisted by five deputies from Yemen, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, and Sudan. Damascus will be the UAP headquarters.

We really are not concerned with these "maneuvers" which occur quite frequently during any Arab gathering or conference, as we have become used to them. It is enough that they, thank God, always return to us asking forgiveness and pardon and admitting their intellectual shortcomings, which cannot catch up with Egyptian intellect.

But what I want to say to 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud is that Egypt does not need your testimony or anyone else's. Egypt is content with the entire world's testimony, which stresses Egypt's leadership during war and peace, in science and knowledge, and in supporting man's rights everywhere.

I tell Jallud it is natural for his judgment on matters to be "so shallow." Consequently, when he labels Egypt defeatist, he certainly is unaware of what is going on around him and has no knowledge of the changes prevailing in the world now, changes which Egypt had the foresight to proceed with in ample time.

We frankly excuse him because he has not found an outlet for himself in 20 years, except for the deserts of al-Kafrah, Misratah, and Sabha where he gathers the Libyan brothers and installs himself as their teacher while they are forced to listen without the right to comment.

Jallud's attempt to depict the Camp David agreement as an accusation leveled against the Egyptian people and late President Anwar al-Sadat is an ill-timed one, because the Arabs now are attempting, through the Madrid conference, to reach a similar agreement, or even part of it. God knows whether they will be able to reach this goal.

But, as I said, the problem is that Jallud, with his character and instincts, is incapable of following what is happening on the wider horizon.

The story of the absence of opposition in Egypt remains. I have no comment on this, except for some words by 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud himself. During a visit to Libya, Jallud met with us—the chief editors of Egyptian newspapers—to discuss the developments in the Arab arena. He used to stop from time to time and repeat the same sentence: Frankly, I cannot believe you have such an extensive opposition. I read the papers issued by the parties and wonder how they are allowed to be published.

Anyhow, I personally know Col. al-Qadhdhafi's opinion of 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud. Hence, my heart is with Col. al-Qadhdhafi, who continues to keep him when he should have got ridden of him a long time ago.

Joint Egyptian-Chadian Communique Issued

NC0611120291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0953 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Chadian President Idriss Deby hailed the Madrid peace conference and hoped it would open new horizons for achieving real peace in the region. During their talks in Cairo, the two presidents gave particular attention to the Middle East issue.

A joint communique issued at the end of the Chadian president's visit stated that the two presidents reemphasized their support for the Palestinian people's national rights, particularly their right to self-determination. They said that a just and lasting peace in the region can only be reached by respecting these rights, and by Israel returning all the territories occupied in 1967, according to Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Presidents Mubarak and Deby said they were determined to strengthen fraternity and solidarity between Egypt and Chad, and intensify and diversify bilateral cooperation. The Chadian president appreciated Egypt's technical assistance.

President Mubarak congratulated President Deby, chairman of the National Salvation Movement, for achievements for the good of the Chadian people struggling for peace, freedom, and democracy.

The joint communique noted that Presidents Mubarak and Deby discussed African and international issues on which they shared identical views. The two reiterated that their countries' comply with OAU [Organization of African Unity] principles and objectives, and renewed their commitment to strengthening the OAU, which represents a framework for joint action and African solidarity.

They hoped Libya and Chad would reach a peaceful settlement over the current dispute, which would consequently strengthen fraternity between the two countries.

Presidents Mubarak and Deby welcomed current developments in South Africa, stressing that they are determined to continue supporting its people in their struggle to end apartheid and establish a just, free, and democratic political system. The two presidents said that implementing the various OAU and UN resolutions on the Western Sahara problem is the best way to its just and fair solution.

They reviewed economic issues, stating their determination to consolidate bilateral and regional cooperation among developing countries, particularly the African states. The communique noted that the two presidents welcomed the agreement to establish an African economic community, signed in June 1991 during the 27th African summit in Abuja.

The presidents underlined the importance of strengthening solidarity and cooperation between the Africans and Arabs, and reiterated their commitment to doubling efforts to further promote this cooperation.

They welcomed the detente and rapprochement prevailing in relations between Eastern and Western countries, and efforts to promote international cooperation, disarmament, and the UN's role. The two stressed their interest in environmental protection, demanding effective international measures prohibiting the transfer of toxic and dangerous wastes and their dumping in other countries' territories.

The Chadian president thanked the Egyptian Government and people for a warm and brotherly reception. President Husni Mubarak accepted the Chadian visitor's invitation to pay an official visit to Chad on a date to be determined.

Chadian President Colonel Idriss Deby left Cairo this morning after coming to Egypt on 4 November at the invitation of President Mubarak.

Minister Denies Amnesty International Reports

NC0111210991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] Cairo, 1 Nov (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has denied Amnesty

International's claims that torture cases have been reported in Egyptian prisons in the past decade. He described the Amnesty International reports as untrue.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM today, Musa asserted that no prisoner has been subjected to physical torture. He added that the Interior Ministry recently received delegations representing Amnesty International and the Organization of Human Rights, granted them all the necessary facilities, responded to all their demands, and supplied them with the necessary documents. He remarked that the two organizations have sent thank you messages to the ministry.

Commenting on the linkage between both foreign and domestic security, the interior minister pointed out that the policy pursued by Egypt to reconcile Arabs and unite their ranks has spared the security apparatus 85 percent of its efforts. Operations that used to threaten security across the borders no longer have any standing in view of Egypt's current relations with its neighbors.

Mr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa affirmed that the activities of the extremist groups in Egypt are beginning to diminish noticeably and the Egyptian masses have started confronting some of their operations.

Mauritania

RDU Rejects Formation of Transitional Government

AB2510144291 Paris AFP in French 1044 GMT 23 Oct 91

[Text] Nouakchott, 23 Oct (AFP)—The Rally for Democracy and Unity [RDU] has rejected the idea of a transitional government demanded by certain opposition parties. The RDU leader Ahmed Ould Sidi Baba stated this at a press conference in Nouakchott yesterday.

Ould Sidi Baba, who is the Mauritanian head of state's cousin, said this demand is no longer justified inasmuch as assurances have been given by the regime for open elections. Furthermore, he added, the system used in other countries has proved dangerous and harmful and leads to disorder.

The RDU leader rejected accusations that his party is close to that of the president, explaining that the RDU is at the center; it refuses violence and extravagant promises, and stands for democratic dialogue and social peace.

Last, Ould Sidi Baba reaffirmed that his party would not present any candidate for the presidential elections and preferred to fight for parliamentary majority.

The RDU is one of the eight political parties set up in Mauritania following the restoration of democracy after 13 years of military regime.

Five Parties Urge Neutral Provisional Government

LD2910210291 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 29 Oct 91

[Text] In Mauritania, five opposition parties have joined the Party for Justice and Democracy in calling for the advent of a neutral provisional government and the dissolution of the municipal councillors elected last year.

Kuwait

U.S. Urged To Take 'Firm Stand' With Israel

PM0511145391 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Nov 91 p 17

[Iyad Abu-Shaqra article: "What Is Required of James Baker"]

[Text] Whoever watched the way U.S. Secretary of State James Baker conducted the opening sessions of the Madrid peace conference must have been convinced that the United States seriously wants the conference to succeed and is working to ensure its success and remove the obstacles in its way.

Seldom has an observer of any world occasion of any kind at any time or place become so sure of what a peace conference meant to a superpower as in Madrid. Yet, with diplomacy, dignity, and sublime awareness of the importance of the event, Washington has made a point of repeatedly emphasizing that peace in the Middle East can only be made by the people of the Middle East.

Theoretically that is correct, of course. In essence, peace in any region and across any border can be achieved only by the people of the region scorched by the fires of enmity and hatred. Without mutual trust, without the elimination of injustice and blatant aggression, without the restoration of rights, and without fairness to the victim and deterrence of the unjust, only a longer or shorter truce can be achieved "while bitterness remains in the hearts," to quote an Arab poet.

In reality, the U.S. role in the mechanism of peace and the U.S. interest in the success of the peace process are much greater than diplomacy allows Baker and his aides to admit.

The Arabs are aware today and always have been aware of Washington's weight and ability to make war in our region and other parts of the world. They therefore expect it to have almost absolute power to make peace, particularly as the Arab sides have agreed to facilitate the negotiation process and refused to let the Israeli obstruction and misleading tactics derail the peace train.

James Baker fully realizes the Arab response and, more importantly, he is aware of the nature of the Israeli maneuvers. Therefore, the least he can do now is to take a firm stand that will curb the blackmailers' "art" and take the conference to the heart of the "land-for-peace" concept, instead of allowing the Israeli delegation to turn the conference into a free and meaningless handshaking party devoid of goodwill and serious negotiation.

Upcoming Maneuvers With U.S. Forces Reported

LD0511163791 London KUNA in Arabic 1405 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Kuwait City, 5 Nov (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Military Command announced here today that the Kuwaiti Armed Forces will carry out training and maneuvers jointly with the friendly U.S. forces from various land, sea, and air units.

A communique issued today by the Directorate of Moral Guidance and Public Relations of the Kuwaiti Army General Staff said that the Kuwaiti forces will begin, as of tomorrow, joint maneuvers at the army firing range in the region of Udayri' al-Khullah, northwest of Kuwait [City]. The maneuvers will continue until the middle of next month.

These joint maneuvers between the Kuwaiti and U.S. Armed Forces are designed to raise the Kuwaiti Armed Forces' competence and readiness to use all weapons, and come within the context of joint coordination and cooperation between the two armies aimed at raising the defense capabilities of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces so that they remain a shield protecting the homeland's capacities and gains. The Kuwaiti Army's Directorate of Moral Guidance and Public Relations called on all citizens and residents to keep away from the region north of al-Matla', al-Zaqlab, and [word indistinct].

Petroleum Minister on Cost of Capping Oil Wells

LD0511155391 London KUNA in Arabic 0910 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 5 Nov (KUNA)—With enthusiasm and eagerness Kuwaiti citizens and people throughout the world are daily following the intensive efforts made by the Kuwaiti Government to control the estimated 730 oil wells, which were set alight by the Iraqi aggressors before their withdrawal from the liberated Kuwaiti territories. [passage omitted]

Petroleum Minister Hamud al-Ruqba said that the cost of putting out the fires may reach $1.5 billion, including $600 million for equipment which will be resold. He pointed out that 10 percent of the burning wells will be permanently capped. As for the remaining 90 percent, around 70 percent require simple repairs while the others need thorough examination. As a result of these examinations, it will be decided whether to utilize them or cap them permanently. It is worth noting that Kuwait's oil production is currently 270,000 barrels per day. It will rise to 400,000 barrels per day by the end of this year and reach 800,000 barrels per day by the middle of next year.

Dr. al-Ruqba expressed the hope that the Kuwaiti oil industry will resume its activity within three years. He pointed out that the cost of reconstruction will be between $8.5 and $10 billion. [passage omitted]

Government Declares End to Oil Well Fires

NC0611105791 Paris AFP in English 1021 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Burgan Oilfield, Kuwait, Nov 6 (AFP)—Kuwaiti head of state Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah pressed a remote control button here Wednesday putting out Kuwait's last oil fire.

At almost the same time, firefighters extinguished two lingering well blazes in the north, ending the tragic legacy of the sabotage of 751 wells set on fire by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's troops at the end of the Gulf war, Kuwaiti officials said.

Well 118 in the southern Burgan field had already been controlled and capped. It was re-ignited for the ceremony, as the last of some 700 well blazes from the Gulf war.

In the Sabriyah field in northern Kuwait near the border with Iraq, Canadian firefighters failed late Tuesday in a desperate effort to put out Kuwait's last out-of-control oil fire.

They finally quenched the blaze Wednesday as well as another well the Canadians had extinguished Tuesday but that had re-ignited earlier in the morning.

Saudi Arabia

Crown Prince Receives Kuwaiti Delegation

LD0511215991 Riyadh SPA in English 1932 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Riyadh, Nov. 5, SPA—Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the deputy premier and commander of the National Guard, said today the support extended to the brotherly people of Kuwait by the custodian of the two holy mosques and the Saudi Government and people was a duty dictated by the Islamic brotherhood, the rights of neighbourhood and the historic relations binding the two sisterly countries.

These relations have been crowned by the historic solidarity that emerged during the crisis when Saudis and Kuwaitis unitedly launched Kuwait's liberation war, said prince 'Abdallah in a speech delivered this afternoon during a reception for the speaker of the Kuwaiti National Assembly, 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Musa'id and his accompanying delegation.

He also stressed that the Saudi people and government should not be thanked for their efforts because Saudis and Kuwaitis are brothers and Islam urges Muslims to help each other.

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz spared no efforts to support the government and people of Kuwait, said the crown prince adding that King Fahd never lost faith in the liberation of Kuwait or restoring legitimacy for it.

Prince 'Abdallah said the Saudi monarch had exerted enormous efforts on Arab, Islamic and international arenas to drum up support for the cause.

He stressed the need for a practical outlook at the future "To balance our interests and emotions and serve Islam. We have to work hard within that framework."

The head of the Kuwaiti delegation 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Musa'id thanked the custodian of the two holy mosques, the crown prince and the people and government of Saudi Arabia for their support during the Iraqi occupation of his country.

He also expressed his appreciation for the Saudi hospitality and services extended to Kuwaitis during the crisis.

United Arab Emirates

French Chief of Staff Arrives on Official Visit

JN0111212891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1720 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 Nov (WAKH)—Admiral Jean Lanquest [name as received], chief of staff of the French forces, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Abu Dhabi this evening on an official visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] scheduled to last for several days.

He was received at the airport by Staff Major General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, UAE chief of staff, and the French ambassador to the UAE.

Meets Military Officials

JN0211160291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 Nov (WAKH)—Admiral Jean Lanquest [name as received], chief of staff of the French Armed Forces, who is currently visiting Abu Dhabi, held a series of meetings with ranking military officials of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] Armed Forces.

Discussions at the meetings held between Admiral Lanquest and Staff General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, UAE chief of staff; Staff Brigadier Hazza' al-Drmaki, commander of the Naval forces; Staff Brigadier Rashid Sayf al-Riyami, commander of the Air Force and air defense, dealt with military issues of mutual concern.

Delegation Departs

JN0411192091 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, November 4 (GNA)—French Chief of Staff Admiral Jean Lanquest [name as received] and the accompanying delegation left today after a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates.

He was seen off by Chief of Staff of the UAE Armed Forces Major General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi and a number of UAE senior officers.

Hammadi Appointed Presidential Office Adviser

JN0611073991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0722 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Nov (INA)—In today's issue, BABIL reports that the Revolution Command Council decided to appoint Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi an adviser at the presidency at the rank of minister.

It is to be mentioned that Dr. Hammadi served as prime minister.

Court of Cassation Chief Sworn In Before Saddam

JN0211105191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1020 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Nov (INA)—'Abd-al-Wahhab Husayn al-Duri took the constitutional oath before His Excellency President Saddam Husayn today on the occasion of the assumption of his post as chief of the Court of Cassation.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Hatim Hamdan al-'Izzawi, head of the President's Office.

Officers Seeking Asylum in Israel Held by Jordan

PM0511160291 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 4 Nov 91 p1

[Unattributed report: "Iraqi Officers Who Tried To Seek Refuge in Israel Arrested by Jordanian Security Authorities and Handed Over to Baghdad"]

[Text] Amman, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—SAWT AL-KUWAYT has learned from Jordanian sources that a military force from the Jordanian Army arrested four Iraqi Army officers in the Ghawr al-Safi area south of the Dead Sea adjacent to Israel a few days ago.

It transpired during the interrogation that the four officers intended to infiltrate into Israel in the hope of obtaining political asylum. They spent about 45 days in Jordan making preparations for their infiltration operation. After their capture the four officers were handed over to Jordanian military intelligence, which held them for over a week, and after interrogation handed them over to the Jordanian General Intelligence Service. The service held them for four days and then decided to hand them over to the Iraqi authorities along with the statements and confessions made by the Iraqi officers under interrogation. It was revealed that, under interrogation, the officers made serious and important confessions about what is taking place in Iraq, particularly within the Iraqi Army and security organs.

U.S. Overflights in Mosul Create 'Confusion'

'Severe Damage' 31 Oct

JN0111124891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2020 GMT 31 Oct 91

[Text] Mosul, northern Iraq, 31 Oct (INA)—The United States is continuing its crime, aggression, and provocation against Iraq and its proud people by carrying out air sorties from neighboring countries, believing that it is terrifying the sons of our proud people. This morning, U.S. warplanes violated Iraqi airspace over the city of Mosul and its suburbs for the purposes of surveillance and provocation and to create panic among citizens.

The INA correspondent in Mosul said that U.S. aircraft carried out six sorties at high and low altitudes and in various formations, as well as single sorties.

The correspondent said that the aggressors chose for their air sorties the beginning and end of school hours and office hours for educational institutes, government establishments, and employees' prayers.

The correspondent also said that when U.S. aircraft flying at an altitude of 200 meters over the city of Mosul last Friday broke the sound barrier, severe damage was caused.

The correspondent quoted the traffic director in the governorate as saying that the hostile violations of airspace resulted in car accidents and confusion among drivers.

The correspondent added that damage was caused to citizens' property and houses, governmen[t] nstallations, and tourist sites. Window panes in the Ninawa Hotel were also shattered. Losses were estimated to be 60,000 dinars. A number of car collisions also occurred, causing material damage.

Citizens Protest 1 Nov

JN0211084891 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] U.S. warplanes have continued to violate Iraqi airspace over the city of Mosul and its suburbs. The planes of aggression violated Iraqi airspace over the city and its suburbs in a bid to harass citizens and to disturb them at 0816, 0839, 0851, 0911, 0955, 1100, and 1138 today.

An INA correspondent in Mosul said that U.S. warplanes this morning conducted seven air sorties at high and low altitudes in various formations, as well as single sorties. This was to frighten citizens and to disturb them while they were going to mosques to perform Friday prayers, during which Muslims meet together to perform prayers and to listen to Friday sermons. The INA correspondent in the governorate quoted Ninawa Governor Mundhir Nusayyif Jasim as saying that the continued air sorties at high and low altitudes by U.S. warplanes and their breaking of the sound barrier several times daily constitute a flagrant violation of all heavenly values and norms and a brazen defiance of all international norms and charters. He added that the governorate's children,

women, and the elderly go to the governorate's office every day to condemn the U.S. crime and aggression against Iraq and its people and to affirm the strength and firmness of our people vis-a-vis these hostile acts.

For his part, Siddiq Muhammad 'Abdallah, member of the Executive Bureau of the National Federation of Iraqi Students and Youth and chief of the Ninawa branch of the federation, condemned the U.S violations of our airspace which seek to create an atmosphere of fear and panic among the citizens. He added: The Ninawa branch of the federation has drawn up a tactical and strategic plan for the Ba'th Party vanguards, students, and youths in the governorate to courageously confront the flagrant U.S. aggression. He pointed out that the most obvious defiance of the aggression took place when more than 10,000 vanguards in Ninawa staged a defiant march throughout all streets of the governorate, defying the enemy planes which were conducting air sorties at low altitudes over the march. The vanguards in the march shouted slogans glorifying mujahid leader President Saddam Husayn and Iraq's great steadfastness.

'Provocations' Continue 4 Nov

JN0411204091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Mosul, 4 Nov (INA)—The Americans and Zionists have continued their provocations of our people in the city of Mosul.

Today, the planes of the Zionist-American aggression violated Iraqi airspace over Mosul and its suburbs for purposes of reconnaissance, provocation, disturbing citizens, and terrorizing children, women, and the elderly. This took place at the following times: 0815, 1140, 1221, 1235, 1328, 1335, 1344, 1635, 1659, and finally at 1716, when the call for the sunset prayers was being raised.

U.S. warplanes today carried out 10 sorties, sometimes at high altitudes, and sometimes at very low ones, no higher than 50 meters. The flights consisted of various formations and single sorties.

Mr. Muhammad Muhammad Nuri, director of social welfare in the governorate, said these mad, shameful, and inhumane acts by enemy planes—committed at the direction of President Bush—and the daily, repeated breaking of the sound barrier, constitute a blatant violations of the rights of a peaceful people.

He said the terrifying sounds caused by enemy planes flying at very low altitudes disturb children in nurseries and institutes for the deaf, dumb, and mentally retarded; residents of homes for the aged; and children at state girls' and boys' institutes.

He said the flights smashed window panes at nurseries and caused massive material damage.

5 Nov Overflights Detailed

JN0511193191 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] U.S. aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace over the city of Mosul and its environs, breaking the sound barrier to provoke and disturb citizens.

The ravens of the Atlantic-Zionist-U.S. aggression violated Iraqi airspace over the city of Mosul and the surrounding area at 0844, 0907, 1055, 1101, 1111, 1127, 1231, 1325, 1340, 1414, 1420, 1600, 1729, and at 1745 today for purposes of surveillance and provocation, and in an attempt to disturb citizens and make children panic.

An INA correspondent in Ninawa Governorate said that U.S. warplanes carried out 14 sorties at various altitudes, engaging in various formations and individual sorties to terrify our secure people, disregarding all international norms and charters, and oblivious to international legitimacy and human rights.

Spokesman Denounces Sorties

JN0211061291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1905 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Nov (INA)—A spokesman for the Ministry of Culture and Information described the U.S. aircraft violations of Iraqi airspace as disgraceful and criminal behavior, causing damage to private housing and public buildings from smashed windows and inconveniencing the sick and elderly.

In a statement today, the spokesman said that this disregard for international conventions, the rules of war and peace, and the treatment of civilians is typical of the behavior of the Americans and Zionists. Their history is full of examples of such irresponsibility and criminality.

The statement is as follows:

A spokesman for the Ministry of Culture and Information stated the following:

U.S. military aircraft have been taking off from Turkish airfields to violate Iraqi airspace in the Governorates of Dahuk, Irbil, and Ninawa for some time. Over the past two months, they have been violating the airspace over Mosul on virtually a daily basis at various altitudes.

The spokesman said: These violations and our knowledge of the naive American mentality and the hatred felt by Bush and his lieutenants against the people of Iraq lead one to conclude that the noise and boom created by aircraft flying at low altitudes is calculated to inconvenience and create tension and anxiety among the population of the courageous city of Mosul.

The spokesman added: But the Americans have noticed that over the past two months, these almost daily violations over Mosul and the northern governorates have been greeted with indifference and disdain.

Apparently the Americans have been vexed by this indifferent and scornful attitude, so they have stepped up their airspace violations. They fly their aircraft at altitudes as low as 50 meters and speeds so high that it breaks the sound barrier. This is what happened over Mosul last week.

The spokesman said: This American behavior can only be described as shameful, since it causes damage to private housing and public buildings, civilian casualties from shattered windowpanes, and harassment of the sick and elderly. This is in addition to the probability that aircraft flying at low levels and high speeds might become involved in accidents over Mosul.

This disregard for international conventions, the rules of war and peace, and civilians is typical of the behavior of the Americans and Zionists, whose history is full of examples of wantonness and crime.

The spokesman added that Iraq is documenting all of these violations and reporting them to the United Nations as they occur.

30-31 Oct Overflights Protested

JN0211052291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] New York, 1 Nov (INA)—Iraq protested the violation of Iraqi airspace by U.S. aircraft for purposes of surveillance and provocation.

According to a memorandum to the UN secretary general from Iraq's permanent envoy to the United Nations, U.S. aircraft mounted 20 sorties in 10 formations of two planes each on 30 and 31 October, flying primarily over the Duhuk, Zakho, Irbil, Mosul, Tall 'Afar, al-'Adadiyah, and 'Ayn Zalah areas at altitudes ranging from 1.5 to 7 km and speeds between 600 and 900 km per hour.

During the same timeframe, two F-16's overlew the al-Faruq airport at 500 km and an altitude of 300 meters. Two Jaguars also flew over the same airport at an altitude of 1 km and a speed of 500 km per hour, the memorandum added.

31 Oct-1 Nov Violations Detailed

JN0211194191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] New York, 2 Nov (INA)—Iraq sent a memorandum of protest to the UN secretary general today over continued U.S. aircraft violations of Iraqi airspace for purposes of reconnaissance and provocation.

Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations explained that from 31 October to 1 November 1991, U.S. planes carried out 29 sorties consisting of 12 two-plane formations, one four-plane formation, and one single-plane sortie. They travelled at speeds between 600 and 950 km per hour, at an altitudes of 1.5 to 5 kilometers.

He said the enemy planes flew primarily over Mosul, Duhuk, Irbil, al-'Amadiyah, Tall 'Afar, and Zakho.

On the same day, he said, two F-111 planes flew over al-Faruq airport, travelling at 600 km per hour, at an altitude of 1.5 kilometers. Two other F-16 planes flew over Farnas airport at 500 km per hour, at an altitude of 1.5 kilometers.

Further on 1 Nov Violations

JN0411110191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] New York, 4 Nov (INA)—U.S. aircraft continued their violation of Iraqi airspace on 1 November for observation and provocation purposes.

In a memorandum addressed to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the permanent Iraqi representative to the United Nations noted that on 1 November, U.S. aircraft conducted 14 sorties divided into 5 two-plane formations and a four-plane sortie at speeds ranging between 600 and 950 km per hour and altitudes of between 1 and 6.5 km.

He added that the aircraft concentrated their activity over Mosul, Irbil, Duhuk, Zakho, and Tall 'Afar, noting that at 1100 on 1 November three Jaguar aircraft flew over Firnas Airport at a speed of 600 km per hour and an altitude of 50 meters. Also, at 1130 on the same day, two F-111 aircraft flew over al-Faruq Airport at a speed of 700 km per hour and an altitude of 20 meters.

Damage From Overflights Outlined

JN0411150791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1332 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] The United Nations, 4 Nov (INA)—Iraq has called on the United Nations to put an end to U.S. warplane violations of Iraqi airspace and to U.S. disregard for the UN Charter.

In a memorandum to the UN secretary general and the chairman of the Security Council, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations said U.S. violations of Iraq airspace have taken on a new criminal nature, aimed at terrifying Iraqi civilians, especially women and children. U.S. aircraft have been breaking the sound barrier and flying at low altitudes, inflicting damage on houses and buildings.

The memorandum pointed out that on 30 October, two U.S. F-16's, flying at an altitude of only 200 meters, broke the sound barrier over the city of Mosul, smashing window panes and shaking some buildings.

The memorandum explained that U.S. warplanes originating from Turkish airports have for some time been violating Iraqi airspace over the governorates of Duhuk, Irbil, and Ninawa.

The memorandum added that on the same day, other planes carried out 12 sorties over the cities of Mosul,

Dahuk, and Zakho. It further explained that on 1 November, U.S. warplanes violated the airspace over Mosul and its suburbs, breaking the sound barrier and damaging some buildings, including Ninawa Opri Hotel [name as received], which suffered an estimated 80,000 Iraqi dinars in damage.

The memorandum said that these disgraceful practices by the United States, which claims to be civilized and a protector of human rights, caused incalculable alarm and psychological anxiety among children.

Iraq called on the world community to confront and curb these violations in accordance with the charter of the international organization.

Memo to UN on Turkish Land, Airspace 'Violations'

JN0211195791 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Nov 91

[Text] Iraq informed the United Nations today of the Turkish forces' violations of Iraqi airspace and territory. In a memorandum to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Iraq's permanent UN representative said: A Turkish force made up of commandos, gendarmes, and village guards affiliated with the 1st Special Forces Brigade and the 23d Gendarme Brigade entered Iraqi territory on 26 October 1991. Some areas of this Iraqi territory were the targets of Turkish air raids the same day. These areas are Hosi, Rashma, Hora, Hil, Hish, Razqiyah, Jabal (?Nirwah Sitoi, and (?Mirawish).

The Iraqi UN representative added: The Turkish force withdrew from these areas on 27 October.

Iraq's permanent UN representative asked the UN secretary general, in accordance with the principles of international law and the UN Charter, to take all necessary measures to stop these violations and to prevent their repetition in the future.

Dailies Outline Damage

JN0311131191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0748 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Nov (INA)—AL-THAWRAH and AL-JUMHURIYAH followed up the details of the Turkish attacks on northern Iraq. The two papers' correspondents acquainted themselves with the situation of the Kurdish citizens who were injured in the Turkish air raids on villages and residential areas.

In pictorial reportage, the two papers said the Turkish raids violated all international and human charters and norms by targetting innocent children, women, and civilians.

AL-THAWRAH correspondents, who visited Saddam's General Hospital in Mosul, were briefed on the quick measures taken to treat 14 male and female citizens of the area, including a number of children, women, and elderly who were admitted into the hospital after being injured in the Kurd Sufayn [name as received] complex in Qada' 'Aqrah, stressing that a man and a child were killed as a result of the inhuman hostile bombardment.

Speaking to AL-JUMHURIYAH correspondent, a number of citizens in the Iraqi Kurdish villages attacked by Turkish aircraft said that two fighter planes coming from the Kali Balint [name as received] area on the Turkish-Iraqi border attacked the citizens of the village of Birsi near the mountain of Dinarta. They noted that they were herding their sheep there when they were exposed to this vicious act.

Citizens from the village of Darina [name as received] said that there were no military forces or bases in the area that was bombarded by the Turkish aircraft. Another citizen from the village of Imam Khalifah said that the Turkish aircraft overflew the area at low altitudes and fired smoke bombs at first, then used incendiary napalm bombs and Dushkas, setting fire to scores of the shepherds' tents and injuring or burning scores of children and women.

Dr. Mahmud 'Abd-al-Hadi Salih, a general surgeon at Saddam's General Hospital in Mosul, told AL-JUMHURIYAH that some citizens who were exposed to the Turkish air raids sustained serious injuries. He added that one of the injured was a two-year old child who died instantly at the scene from shrapnel in the abdomen and various body fractures.

Blockade of Kurdish Areas Reported

NC0511153291 Paris AFP in English 1359 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Zakho, Iraq, Nov 5 (AFP)—Iraqi authorities have isolated Kurdish areas of northern Iraq, closing off roads linking region with the south, Kurdish rebel sources said Tuesday.

Kurdish fighters at a checkpoint on the road linking Dahuk to Mosul told AFP that roads between the northern cities of al- Sulaymaniyah, Irbil and Mosul and points south were blockaded on Monday.

Correspondents said another passage point on the outskirts of Fa'idah had also been closed, adding that fuel supplies in Kurdistan have been dwindling for the last four days. [passage omitted]

Southern Villages Said Under Siege

LD0411185691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Iraqi regime forces, continuing their suppression of the uprising of the Muslim people of southern Iraq, have laid siege to several villages in the region, including Salibiyah and Khabzirah. They arrested a considerable number of young Muslims during house searches.

The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] announced this news, and added: Government

forces also recently arrested 83 Iraqi youths who had fled during the suppression of the popular uprising, and who had returned home. There is no news of their fate.

Fighter Aircraft Reportedly Attack

LD0511174291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Thousands of residents of southern Iraqi cities are living under the most difficult conditions in the marshes and swamps in the southern part of the country.

In a report from Ahvaz, quoting an Iraqi refugee, the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY adds that the Ba'thist regime ruling Iraq, faced with opposition from the people, is using fighter aircraft and heavy weapons to destroy residential areas in these cities. As a result, the people have taken refuge in the swamps and marshes.

According to the same report, encounters between Iraqi Muslims and the forces of Saddam's regime in the southern region of the country are continuing.

Kurdish Leader on Negotiations, Continued Clashes

PM0611151991 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Nov 91 p 4

[Zuhayr Qusaybati report: "Talabani Says: We Will Take Final Position on Agreement With Baghdad Within Days"]

[Excerpt] London—Jalal Talabani, joint leader of the Kurdistan Front and secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, expects the front to take a final position on the draft agreement with Baghdad within days. Prior to his departure from Ankara yesterday he told AL-HAYAH that his disagreement with Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, is confined to views and does not affect "the foundations" with regard to the acceptance of any plan.

In a telephone conversation with AL-HAYAH, Talabani revealed that clashes with the Iraqi Army resumed the day before yesterday and that artillery and air bombardment were continuing yesterday in the area of Nutshul [as transliterated].

He pointed out that Kurdish fighters (peshmergas) belonging to the union and others belonging to the Iraqi Communist Party took part in the confrontations witnessed in three areas of northern Iraq. He also pointed out that "warplanes bombed the village of Klaw Kut (20 km north of Karkuk), while the Army launched an offensive with artillery and tanks in Nutshul (formerly Karkuk Governorate). Infantry units intervened but the (Kurdish) fighters repulsed the offensive and captured six Iraqi military men." He said that they seized 120mm and 82mm mortars.

He added that "General Mahir 'Abd-al-Rashid has been appointed commander of the 2d Corps stationed in Jalula', perhaps in preparation for launching a new offensive being prepared by the Iraqi forces in the Kifri area."

He broached the "economic blockade imposed by Baghdad on Iraqi Kurdistan," revealing that there is a "government offer to resolve the blockade question by keeping the civilian administrations for the basic services like relief, health, and fuel, but withdrawing them from schools." He believes that "international pressure is capable of forcing the Iraqi Government to back down."

He announced that the leadership of the Kurdistan Front met in Shaqlawah (in northern Iraq) the day before yesterday and "decided to continue the dialogue with the government to resolve the economic blockade problem and avoid recourse to military escalation." They also decided to avoid armed confrontation whenever possible. He added that the front informed the coordination center belonging to the allies in Zakhu of the new clashes and asked it to "watch the situation in the field and to ascertain when the Army started military operations."

Talabani emphasized that he will return to Shaqlawah today and that the Front will hold an expanded meeting within days, and "could take a final decision on the draft agreement with Baghdad concerning autonomy for Kurdistan." But he stressed that the plan offered by the Iraqi Government "is unacceptable to the Patriotic Union, especially with regard to democracy in Iraq."

He admitted the existence of a disagreement between him and Barzani, saying that "it will be discussed during the Front's meeting" and that it does not affect "the foundations and the principles." [passage omitted]

Kurdish Parties To Meet 4 Nov To Review Dialogue

JN0311140191 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Arbil, Nov 3, INA—The Kurdistan parties front on Monday meets in Shaqlawah, Irbil Province, to review outcomes of the dialogue conducted by a front delegation chaired by Mr Mas'ud Barzani with the Iraqi Government delegation recently.

A front responsible source said that Mr Barzani would explain during the meeting details of the agreement on developing the experiment of the autonomy and deepening the democratic practice in Iraq.

The source added that Mr Barzani also explained in detail his viewpoint on the front relations with Ankara after three Turkish air and land operations carried out since last August against the Kurdish villages .

Mr Barzani had recently slammed at statements released by Jalal Talbani abroad claiming the failure of the dialogue between the Kurdish front and the official government delegation.

Mr Barzani emphasized the importance of continuing this dialogue in strengthening the national unity and safeguarding Iraq's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

'Aziz Opens Seminar on Party Congress Statement

JN0511200091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1737 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA)—An intellectual seminar on the principal lines of the political statement of the 10th regional congress, the Congress of Jihad and Construction, began this evening. The three-day seminar is organized by the culture and information bureau of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, delivered a speech inaugurating the first session of the seminar. In his speech, 'Aziz indicated that the purpose of the seminar proceeds from the core of what President Saddam Husayn said in his speech to the congress, and from the basic requirements of the current stage.

He said that the current stage is rife with intellectual and political challenges. He said these challenges cannot be confronted with ready-made responses, but must be confronted with dialogue and debates which eventually lead to profound conviction, and consequently, to behavior conducive to this conviction.

Tariq 'Aziz added that Iraq and the Arab nation need to boldly confront these intellectual and political challenges, and to bring them up for discussion.

Afterward, Dr. Ilyas Farah reviewed a paper he prepared on the first line [of Saddam's speech] entitled "The Mission of Jihad in the Mother of Battles." He indicated that President Saddam Husayn's call in his address to the 10th congress for profound reflection proceeds from a principled stand—a stand which distinguished the Arab nation since it was honored by its commitment to humanity, and has distinguished the Ba'th Party since its inception.

He stressed that the Mother of Battles came to confirm one of the facts of the age; namely, that the Arab nation is proceeding toward the revival of its spiritual heritage. Having realized this fact, the West rushed to obstruct this revival, engaging in "the greatest historic battle of this age."

Dr. Farah said that when challenges face the revival of Arabism and Islam, obstruct Arab unity, and jeopardize Arab revival and existence, the Arab nation's awareness of its identity and struggle to achieve its objectives must face up to these challenges. [passage omitted]

Effects of Airspace Violations During War Viewed

JN0511123391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Nov (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH affirms that the Iraqis' courage and heroism, as well as their unique traits of resistance and steadfastness are stronger than all the destructive and lethal ammunition dropped by aircraft and missiles during the military aggression.

In an article published today under the headline, "The Iraqis' Resistance and Bush's Delusions," the newspaper adds that the Iraqis faced their fate with faith and a jihad spirit that knows neither weakness nor reluctance. Thus, the paper notes, the great Iraqi people, who are marked by unique characteristics and traits, deserve to occupy their vanguard jihad position in the Arab nation's struggle. This position, the paper adds, was secured when Iraq forged grand heroic feats in the Mother of Battles and resisted the 30-state aggression, as well as the military, political, economic, and media weight put behind this aggression under the leadership of U.S. imperialism.

The paper says: The Iraqi people would like to affirm to U.S. aggressors, and to all evildoers, who have allied themselves with Bush and world Zionism, that they would be nursing grand and useless delusions if they believe that their warplanes' violations of Iraq's airspace, which aim to harass and hurt city dwellers, could weaken in any way the Iraqi people's morale or create confusion, anarchy, and panic in their ranks.

The paper points out that our people are well aware that the U.S. aggressors are eager to keep the chapter of military aggression open. Likewise, the paper notes, our people are also aware that the aggressors seek to use each and every link in this chapter to achieve what they have failed to achieve during the direct military aggression on Iraq and the ensuing chapters of treachery and treason, and also through the unfair and unjust resolutions passed by the UN Security Council at the behest of the United States.

The paper goes on to say: We would like to ask Bush to review the Iraqis' recent history to prevent him from believing that his warplanes, which violate our airspace, are capable of terrorizing Iraqis or undermining their will and options. This, the paper says, would show him how the men of the 1920 revolution used their outmoded rifles to fire on British planes, and managed to surpass British air supremacy. Consequently, the British acknowledged the Iraqis' national will, jihad, and faith in the justice and legitimacy of their struggle, the paper says. Moreover, let Bush know how the Iraqis, including children, defied hostile Iranian aircraft and missiles by going to rooftops.

The paper urges Bush to link these realities to the defiance put up by more than 10,000 children in the city of Mosul when they staged a demonstration at a time when U.S. military aircraft were conducting shameful and provocative acts.

Concluding its editorial, AL-THAWRAH says: For all this, we would like to tell Bush that the Iraqi people will deal with the continuous cowardly and provocative acts of his warplanes only with the condemnation, wrath, confrontation, and added determination that such acts deserve in order to maintain and renew unity and cohesion with Saddam Husayn, leader of Iraq, and also of the march of jihad and construction.

Team Leaves for Islamic Communications Meeting

JN0311110191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Nov (INA)—A Transport and Communications Ministry delegation left for Bandung today to participate in the second conference of the Islamic ministers of communications. The conference will open in the Indonesian city on 7 November and will last three days.

Ghassan 'Abd-al-Razzaq, director general of the State Enterprise for Communications and Post and head of the delegation, said the conference will discuss several topics in the field of wire and radio communications among the member states, and means of expanding such communications. He said the conference will also discuss a plan to promote postal services and to offer postal and communications training to technical cadres.

He explained that representatives of 36 Arab and Islamic states will participate in the conference, in addition to representatives of a number of international organizations specializing in wire and radio communications.

European Parliament Visitor Meets al-Zubaydi

JN0311142591 Baghdad INA in English 1325 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 3, INA—Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi today received visiting member of the European Parliament, the chairman of the German-Arab Friendship and Cooperation Society.

Chairman of the Council of Ministers reviewed impacts entailing [from the] continuation of [the] unjust economic blockade on Iraq and its ruinous reflections on health and nutrition of Iraq's children and eldearly, stressing that economic blockade expressed the hostile spirit harboured against the people of Iraq.

During the meeting both sides discussed possibilities of specialized German companies' contribution to providing Iraq's wants of food and medicine.

Comments on Lifting Sanctions

JN0411151891 Baghdad INA in English 1335 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 4, INA—Member of the European Parliament Dieter Schinzel, currently on a visit to Iraq, said that the European members of parliament would not let the Iraqi people suffer as a result of a resolution.

In a statement published today by AL-JUMHURIYAH daily, Mr Schinzel found it unreasonable that the world community ignored international legitimacy and law, which it long called for, by deciding to impose an embargo on food and medicine exports to Iraq.

Mr Schnizel pointed out that his second visit to Iraq came within the frame of a program of action set by the European Parliament to discuss health and economic conditions of the Iraqi people, especially following reports by international humanitarian organizations referring to acute shortage of urgently needed food and medical supplies.

He added that what worsened the situation was Iraq's incapability of exporting water purification pumps, let alone the difficulties it faced to reconstruct what had been destroyd during the air bombings.

The European MP stressed that the economic sanction should be lifted or eased so long as their causes had ended to allow Iraq to buy its people's basic needs, pointing out that Iraq had full right to sell its oil and exploit the proceeds of its sales to cover its needs.

Mr. Schnizel expected the majority of European MPs would approve the call for lifting the sanctions or extending aid to Iraq.

He concluded his statement by confirming that the report he intended to submit to the European Parliament would include true figures on the effects of the sanctions on the people and on their requirements in order to find the right solution to save them.

Group Returns From Euro-Arab Dialogue Meeting

JN0311135491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1209 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Nov (INA)—A National Assembly delegation returned to Baghdad after attending meetings of the Euro-Arab dialogue conference that recently concluded in Lisbon, Portugal.

In a statement to INA, Dr. Ahmad al-Nu'aymi, chairman of the Arab and International Relations Committee at the assembly, said that the conference discussed a number of issues on its agenda, including the destruction of weapons of mass destruction in some world regions. He affirmed that the Iraqi delegation demanded the destruction of all the weapons of mass destruction in the possession of the Zionist entity after the parties to the 30-state aggression destroyed Iraq's economic and cultural infrastructures.

Al-Nu'aymi added that the Iraqi delegation warned, during the conference meetings, of the seriousness of the Zionist entity's practices in the name of Zionist peace to weaken Arab will and impose its hegemony on Arabs. He went on to say that the delegation affirmed that the Zionist entity is the reason for the absence of stability in the region.

Al-Nu'aymi stated that he demanded, during the conference deliberations, the lifting of the unjust economic blockade imposed on Iraq, since this blockade has caused severe shortages in medicine and food. He indicated that the delegation confronted the emotional and convulsive proposals made by the delegation of the rulers imposed on Kuwait. This delegation attempted to make the conferees endorse these proposals to undermine Iraq and its independence, he concluded.

'Crisis' Between Shamir, Levi Reportedly Over

TA0611162891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpt] The meeting this morning between Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Levi lasted approximately one hour and reportedly was held in a good and friendly atmosphere. Neither side would divulge details about the content of the conversation, saying only that the crisis between Shamir and Levi is over. Levi associates have said that the agreement satisfies the foreign minister. It also was reported that full cooperation between the prime minister and the foreign minister and their respective ministries will resume now.

Even though no official details about the Shamir-Levi agreements are available, it turns out that Levi has been promised a role in the political process and full reports on the progress made by the bilateral teams in the deliberations. It is not clear whether Levi will be given the official position of chief coordinator for the negotiating teams, or if he will do that unofficially by virtue of his role as foreign minister. [passage omitted]

U.S.-Mediated Talks With Syrian Said Upcoming

TA0611091591 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Nov 91 p A1

[Report by Yerah Tal, Ori Nir, and 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] Israeli and Syrian representatives, with U.S. mediators, will meet in a European capital in the next few days to agree on the venue for the continuation of the bilateral talks. Authoritative sources in Jerusalem reported this last night. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Urged To 'Keep Peace' in Lebanon

TA0511154391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers believe that the activities of Hizballah and other terror organizations in south Lebanon will continue. Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Northern Command, warns: If our border is not quiet, the Lebanese side will not be quiet either.

[Begin Mordekhay recording] I suggest to Hizballah and its lackeys to stay away and keep the peace. I propose to the Lebanese outside the security zone to allow the security zone and our border to live in peace, so that they may also live in peace. I recommend to all the people behind these organizations, who are responsible for peace and quiet in Lebanon, to take action and see that Hizballah and other groups are not allowed to operate against us from inside Lebanon. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 5 November notes that Gen. Mordekhay made these remarks during a tour with correspondents in south Lebanon today. Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe notes that on the same occasion, Brigadier General Mikha Tamir, chief of the IDF's liaison unit with Lebanon, said that he "foresees an escalation in the number of terror attacks in south Lebanon as winter approaches. In Tamir's opinion, the attacks this year have been more complex and sophisticated. He noted that the entire area bordering the security zone is controlled by Hizballah."]

SLA Chief Comments on Prisoner Releases, Pullout

No More Releases Without Reciprocation

TA0611060791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] General Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], says Damascus and Beirut bear responsibility for the increase in attacks on targets in south Lebanon. He reiterated that he will not allow the Lebanese Army to deploy in the security zone as long as the Beirut government acts for Syrian interests.

On the question of prisoners, the general said that the SLA had released all it could without receiving a satisfactory response from the other side. We hope that the other side will show a willingness to reciprocate, he said. He added there were no plans to free more prisoners at this stage.

The SLA commander's remarks were reported by our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe.

Lahd: Israel 'Not Deserting' SLA

TA0611083491 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Report on interview with General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army, by army affairs correspondent 'Ido Baum]

[Excerpts] The residents of south Lebanon are following the peace process in the hope that it will be beneficial to Israel and to them, says General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army. Lahd says he expects certain conditions beneficial to the residents of the security zone to be discussed in the course of peace negotiations. [passage omitted] Gen. Lahd prefers not to specify what these conditions are; they will be mentioned and publicized in due course, during the negotiations.

The SLA commander notes that optimism about the peace process depends on the Lebanese Government and its stands. He believes it is possible to implement UN Resolution 425, which calls for Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon, but only on the condition that the Lebanese Government represent the interests of Lebanon in the negotiations, and not those dictated by Syria.

For the time being, Israel is not deserting the security zone and the SLA, and I am positive that Israel will not

desert its friends, says Lahd. Israel's stand is reflected in IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA's continued preventive activities against Hizballah north of the security zone. Lahd says that because of the passive stance of Syria and the Lebanese Army, the SLA is obliged to step up its activities. The IDF and SLA activities have proven their efficiency: Terrorist activity has decreased drastically since the pressure north of the security zone was increased, says Lahd. He adds: We have now eased the pressure on the area, but we hope it will not encourage the terrorists to resume their activities. [passage omitted] We warned Hizballah troops to leave the villages north of the security zone, in which they are stationed, and they have done so, says the general. The civilians deserted their homes for fear of artillery fire, but it is a fact that despite the heavy shelling by the IDF and the SLA, there have been few wounded. [passage omitted]

Lubrani on Security Zone, Talks With Lebanon

TA0611085791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Telephone interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in south Lebanon, by Ya'el Dan and 'Arad Nir—live]

[Text] [Dan] Good morning, sir.

[Lubrani] Good morning.

[Dan] We have just heard [South Lebanese Army Commander] General Lahd [about the situation north of the security zone], who sounds quite pleased. Do you think the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] raids on terrorist targets in south Lebanon have been effective?

[Lubrani] Well, it is a prolonged struggle, and not something that started yesterday or a week ago; neither is it about to end. We have an ongoing problem with Hizballah, which, in compliance with orders from their lords and masters in Tehran, are trying to disrupt the political process and foil the peace initiative. North of the security zone in south Lebanon there is no body capable of effectively dealing with Hizballah. Therefore, it is up to us to find a way to do the job without foiling the peace initiative.

[Dan] Are the masters in Tehran the only ones, or do the masters in Damascus have a say, too?

[Lubrani] I have no doubt that the masters in Damascus are also in the business. Had they really wanted to, they could have controlled this.

[Dan] They have taken no action to prevent attacks. Do they also initiate operations?

[Lubrani] I do not know whether they initiate; I have no definite information about that. It is certain, however, that they are not trying to prevent it.

[Nir] Mr. Lubrani, to return to the IDF activity: According to foreign reports, IDF and SLA troops have shelled Shiite villages north of the security zone for 10 successive days. Do you view this as an effective operation?

[Lubrani] I believe it is very effective. Hizballah people understand that they cannot operate without retaliation from us. If that were not the situation, they would have made daily visits to our parts. Our activities may not prevent them from trying again in the future, but I have no doubt that the population north of the security zone will make efforts to prevent future raids.

[Dan] Major General Mordekhay said yesterday that this is but a sample of what we can do in Lebanon. What can we really do inside Lebanon? Are not our hands tied to a certain extent, now that a peace process is under way?

[Lubrani] Our hands were not tied when the peace conference was being held. We cannot allow this gang to run wild under the umbrella of the peace talks.

[Dan] The question is whether we can do more than shell these areas. Can we do what Sharon proposes, for instance? He has done more than propose; he has urged the government to expand the security zone.

[Lubrani] I think it would be a mistake to expand the security zone. I think we should follow current policy. We have been following it successfully since 1985, and I do not see why we cannot continue along the same lines.

[Nir] Is it possible to negotiate pan-Lebanese interests with the so-called central government in Beirut?

[Lubrani] That is a good question. The problem is that since there is no other government, we have to try. It will not be easy, because this government is not free to make independent decisions. Lebanon, however, is a state, and this is its government. This government has sent a delegation to Madrid, and we have to talk with it.

[Nir] To what extent is the Syrian influence felt?

[Lubrani] Oh, it is definitely felt. Despite all the limitations, however, we have to try to reach a dialogue.

[Dan] Do you think talks with the Lebanese delegation are the easiest of all the negotiations? Will it be easy for us to give up the security zone?

[Lubrani] I do not know; I was not there. I think the question of easy or difficult is immaterial. As with any other country, we have to locate issues where progress is possible. I believe we have no special problems with Lebanon—either territorial or other—and, therefore, we need to find ways to make progress in the framework of our talks with our other interlocutors. I do not believe that, at this stage, we will be able to make more progress with Lebanon than with Syria, for instance.

[Dan] Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, we thank you very much.

Sharon Urges Syria To Close 'Terrorist' Bases

TA0511120691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Report by Hayim Hecht]

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon toured Metulla this morning and said that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] must not retaliate only when enraged by severe Hizballah terrorist attacks; the situation must be such that the terrorists can no longer reach our borders. Minister Sharon said that he is losing sleep over the recent attacks against the IDF. Hizballah is assisted by Shiite villagers, who give it information and other aid. We have plenty of methods to put an end to this, Sharon says.

[Begin Sharon recording] We must make it impossible for them to reside in these regions. The best way to get them off balance, without going into details, is to take steps that will prevent them from living there. These things are self-evident and elementary, starting with the political process and including activity in the region. [end recording]

The political process Sharon mentions refers to an unequivocal message he wants the Americans to deliver to Syria: There will be no more talks if you do not eliminate the terrorist bases in al-Biq'a.

[A similar report on Tel Aviv IDF Radio at 1100 GMT on 5 November carries a recorded passage of Sharon's remarks in which he says: "This is the first and most legitimate demand there is. We must tell the Syrians very clearly that if they want to come to peace talks with Israel, they have to break up, remove, and eliminate the terrorist headquarters in Damascus and the terrorist strongholds in the areas under their control in Lebanon. As a matter of fact, most of the terrorist activities from across our northern border originate in regions held by the Syrians. They are in control of all of Lebanon."]

Minister Sharon believes that a wider security zone could help the IDF push the terrorists further away from the northern border fence.

[Begin Sharon recording] I believe that I was not wrong on this issue. The security zone should have been wider. I thought that it should extend all the way to the al-Litani and north of it. Although we should not be present there, we must make sure in various ways that no terrorist organizations establish themselves there. [end recording]

Last night, for the 10th consecutive day, IDF artillery continued shelling terrorist targets in south Lebanon.

IDF 'Avoiding' Position Papers on Borders

TA0111104591 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Nov 91 p A3

[Report by Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] It has been decided in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] that, for the time being, no work will be done on options concerning security borders, demilitarized areas, and other relevant issues. The decision was made by the most senior general staff echelons, although the IDF is the professional body whose job it is to furnish the decisionmakers with professional military and defense position papers to be used whenever bilateral negotiations with one of the Arab countries are held.

Senior IDF elements explained that although the political echelons are in the midst of a peace conference dealing with the future of the territories, the Army is avoiding the issue because it recognizes the political sensitivity of the subject and the special sensitivity of the political echelons and the prime minister.

Senior military sources said that the IDF's reluctance to start preparing the papers is likely to present a problem if the political echelons begin a substantive dialogue with one or more Arab countries immediately after the Madrid conference. In that event, the professional position papers specifying the diverse options open to the political echelons will have to be produced in great haste.

The sources pointed out that during some of the negotiations with Egypt, the policy makers had had to make do with insufficient data, evaluations, and recommendations.

Egypt To Mediate on Venue for Bilateral Talks

TA0611093391 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 6 Nov 91 p 4

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Excerpt] Egypt will serve as mediator between Israeli, Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian representatives to help determine the venue for the bilateral talks. Silent contacts will be made through the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv and the Israeli Embassy in Cairo. The intention is to determine the venue in less than two weeks.

Sources in Jerusalem have not excluded the possibility that when the Palestinian delegation returns to the territories by the end of this week, secret meetings will be held with it as well to determine the venue of the future talks. [passage omitted]

Israel Ready for 'Compromise' With Lebanon

TA0611104391 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 6 Nov 91 p 4

[Report by "an 'AL HAMISHMAR correspondent," Pe'erli Shahar, and news agencies]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] 'AL HAMISHMAR has learned that Israel is ready to make a compromise with Lebanon, according to which it would pull out of south Lebanon if the Syrian Army moves to positions that would prevent contact with the IDF [Israel Defense

Forces] and if the Lebanese Army guarantees a quiet border and prevents Hizballah activity.

It has also been learned that Israeli elements have held direct contacts with Jordan's King Husayn. The Israelis expressed their dissatisfaction with the fact that a U.S. citizen, Prof. Walid al-Khalidi, was part of the Jordanian delegation, saying that he could be viewed as representing the Palestinian diaspora. The Israelis received the impression that the king might replace him. Israel also wants the king involved in the autonomy talks. Circles in Jerusalem believe that the king is still in distress, and that despite the fact that the United States renewed its aid to Jordan, the Americans still do not trust him. [passage omitted]

Sharon—Madrid Conference Was 'Mistake'

PM051154091 Paris LE FIGARO MAGAZINE in French 2 Nov 91 pp 54-55

[Interview with Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon by Eric Laurent in Beersheba—date not given]

[Text] [Laurent] What do you think of the Madrid conference? Are you optimistic about its chances of success?

[Sharon] I favor a peace process and direct negotiations with the Arab countries, but I am afraid that the method followed is not the right one to achieve real peace. You know, a historical parallel springs to mind. Some 50 years ago the European countries exerted pressure on Czechoslovakia, a democratic country, to ask it to make concessions to satisfy Hitler. The same is now true of Israel. The Western powers are asking it to make concessions on Judaea and Samaria (the West Bank—LE FIGARO MAGAZINE editor's note), as Prague was formerly asked to give the Sudeten region back to Nazi Germany. Remember the price which the free world, and especially the Jews living in that country, paid for all that.

[Laurent] But for the first time, Arabs and Israelis are finally sitting down at the same table.

[Sharon] So what is extraordinary about that? Allow me to make an observation. The Jews have existed for 3,800 years. Whether or not countries recognize my existence will not change my position at all.

[Laurent] Do you not now believe in the Arab leaders' goodwill?

[Sharon] The answer is no, categorically no. We are closely observing everything which is said and written throughout the Arab world. We read their press and our intelligence services constantly follow the situation in those countries. I can tell you that we have not detected the slightest change in the Arab countries' attitude toward Israel. There is "nothing," not even the slightest shift toward a conciliatory position. Quite the contrary, those countries seem to be actively preparing....

[Laurent] For what?

[Sharon] For military action in the future. What other explanation is there for the attitude of a country like Syria which is still buying new tanks, when it already has more than 5,000 and which is improving the firepower of its missiles? Furthermore, Damascus now has the third biggest arsenal of chemical weapons in the world, after the USSR and the United States. Iraq, for its part, still has at least 300 Scud missiles and is still working on the manufacture of nuclear weapons.

[Laurent] Do you think that it was a mistake for Israel to agree to attend the Madrid conference?

[Sharon] Participating in a process like the Madrid process was undoubtedly a mistake, but it is too late to do anything about it. We must henceforth be extremely careful not to make further blunders.

[Laurent] Were you surprised and disappointed by the U.S. pressure on Israel?

[Sharon] I was not at all surprised; unlike my colleagues, I never believed that our moderation during the Gulf war would be an attitude which would bring us recognition. I think that we made a serious mistake in not giving ourselves the means of protecting our population simply because that was the best solution for the U.S. Administration. The military are always suspected of wanting war. That is untrue. I have taken part in every conflict since Israel was created and I have seen too much death and suffering. Believe me, I probably know the importance of peace better than many politicians. But I also know that the vast majority of Arab regimes surrounding Israel are dictatorships that lack any Western consistency. Men like Saddam Husayn, al-Qadhdhafi, or al-Asad, in possession of three nuclear bombs, are more dangerous to world peace than the Soviet Union, which has 10,000 nuclear warheads. Moreover, it was Western firms and countries, not Moscow, that supplied nuclear technology to Iraq.

[Laurent] However, if the Arab countries agree to negotiate a peace treaty with Israel, would you return the Golan Heights and all or part of the occupied territories?

[Sharon] The answer is no, certainly not. Have you been to the Golan Heights? It was an incredible position from which they could bombard us with impunity. We might possibly agree to the demilitarization of the Golan Heights, but it will have to remain under our control. Moreover, in 1981 the Israeli parliament voted to annex it.

[Laurent] What about the West Bank?

[Sharon] Jordan is already a Palestinian state and the inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria, which you call the West Bank, are Jordanian citizens. We might develop

economic or tourist cooperation, there are many possibilities which could be envisioned, but one thing is clear: Israel will never agree to the creation of a second Palestinian state west of the Jordan. The difference between me and my government colleagues is that I say: "Let us clearly reaffirm that this will never happen to avoid creating expectations, speculation, and illusions." Similarly, the status of Jerusalem, the Jews' capital, will never be negotiable, contrary to what is envisioned in the second phase of the negotiations started in Madrid.

[Laurent] If international, notably American, pressure is stepped up, would you halt or freeze the development of colonies in the occupied territories?

[Sharon] No, there is no reason to do so. This policy has been going on for 24 years and has been supported by eight governments and six successive prime ministers, of all political persuasions. It is a plan aimed at controlling the strategic positions in every militarily sensitive area. This policy has always been implemented without any expropriation or displacement of Arab populations.

[Laurent] So, for you the Madrid conference does not mark the start of a "new era?"

[Sharon] If by "new era" you mean the "new world order" advocated by President Bush, I will tell you that it is not possible to create that new order with the same old dictators who have ruled for so long over the countries in the region. There can be no illusions—the long-term objective of the Arab countries is still Israel's complete elimination. In the past, they thought they could destroy us by force. They now know that that is impossible. So, they are now making much more sophisticated efforts to attain their goals by a mixture of military threats, diplomatic offensives, manipulation, and lies to the Western democracies.

[Laurent] Did you explain all that to James Baker during his many visits to Israel?

[Sharon] I never met with Mr. Baker during his visits.

Palestinians Voice Views For, Against Madrid

TA0411063091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] In the territories, there is satisfaction mixed with suspicion in the wake of the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians in Madrid. This morning's East Jerusalem papers report on their front pages about the positive results of the conference. On the other hand, opponents persist in dismissing the bilateral negotiations. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports:

Already last night, most of the territories residents who supported the peace talks in Madrid expressed their satisfaction with the very fact that bilateral talks were held between Israeli and Palestinian delegations. On their front pages, East Jerusalem papers such as AL-QUDS and AL-SHA'B, which are identified with the mainstream PLO, write about a breakthrough, positive results, and talks leading to an agreement on autonomy in the near future. Activists in the territories last night denounced the intransigent position displayed by the Syrians until the late hours of the night, noting that the Palestinians went to Madrid to achieve something and will not walk out due to a crisis with the Syrians.

It has been learned that some of the activists who did not leave for Madrid held consultations last night to consolidate their position concerning the activities to be pursued by the residents of the territories now that the Madrid conference is over. Among other things, they discussed the organization of peace marches and political rallies in East Jerusalem.

In contrast, those against the peace process, headed by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] followers, continue to condemn it, arguing that it is a waste of time and that the lands of Palestine should not be discussed with Israel.

As for the intifadah, Yasir 'Arafat declared last night that it will continue until the Palestinian flag is raised over al-Quds, also known as Jerusalem. This statement may have been designed to make it clear to the Israeli people that even as bilateral talks between Israel and the Palestinians are under way, the violence in the territories will continue.

Levi Urges 'National Accord' on Peace Process

TA0611115091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] The Knesset held a political debate today. Yo'el Nir has the details:

In journalistic jargon, David Levi's speech, which had been eagerly awaited, had little meat. What the speech did have was a lot of spirit. David Levi said that the Madrid encounter was the culmination of a year-long process, although at this point, we do not know how it will continue.

The Syrian intransigence, he added, does not bode well. As for the Palestinians, it has been proven that they can produce a local leadership.

As for us, David Levi called for national unity. Let us hear him:

[Begin Levi recording] We will not abandon the path of peace. There are two concurrent and interlinked paths: on the one hand, our right to insist on our principles, and on the other, our duty to prove by action that we aim to achieve peace. We chose this latter path, and we intend to follow it with our heads held high. We will not crawl or crumble; we will accept no dictates; and we will not overlook our interests, the safeguarding of which is a condition for direct negotiations. We proved our determination to protect the most vital interests of the people of Israel by standing firm, and we proved our determination to lead the way to peace by coming to the

conference. I hope this kind of wisdom will characterize the domestic scene, where national accord will be reached. [end recording]

Doubts About Parties' Readiness for Peace Viewed

TA0111205891 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Nov 91 p B1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff in Madrid: "A Concession Is Not Always a Loss"]

[Excerpts] It seems that, since the Versailles conference after World War I, there has never been an international conference so complex, multifaceted, with so many parties to the same dispute as the peace conference that opened in Madrid this week. Historians will certainly note the differences between these two conferences, but it is clear that in terms of complexity and the number of tasks and expectations the parties and mediators have assumed, there is a resemblance. Here also lies the danger: the danger that if too much is sought, nothing will be gained; the danger of trying to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict and all of its components with a single stroke. Naturally, it is hoped that the Madrid conference will have a better ending than the Versailles conference. [passage omitted]

Can the Americans surprise everyone and accomplish such a gigantic task? Can they prove it is possible to succeed in such a comprehensive, widely attended conference? Judging by the moves made in preparation for the conference—so far, the Americans have succeeded. It is worth remembering, however, that international circumstances are very different today. The cold war has ended, and the USSR has no intention of foiling this big U.S. move; it is even showing a willingness to play second fiddle, be a positive partner, and follow the instructions of the chief choreographer, President Bush, and those of his secretary of state, James Baker.

At the same time, it should be noted that the success so far is no indication of chances for the future. The preparations for the climb to the top of the Mount Everest of negotiations have ended, and the parties have reached the area that is short of oxygen. Such a complex effort to mediate between the various parties is a gigantic task, with a big chance for failure. Washington needs a relatively large number of excellent experts to chair the different committees on complex issues such as regional arms control, water, and autonomy. Naturally, the various committees will have to be coordinated, as if they were fast trains due in at the same station at the same time, which cannot be allowed to collide. For this purpose, the Americans need a super mediator, some sort of superstar, someone President Bush could trust and Baker could work with hand in hand. It should be a man capable of doing the dirty work after the Madrid premiere. There are very few people in Washington with such qualifications. It does not seem that the current U.S. team includes such a superstar.

Another question is whether the parties, Arabs and Israel, are ready for such a big move. After decades of deep conflict and many wars, the reply would seem to be positive. The widespread appearance of weapons of mass destruction in the region has reinforced this feeling. On the face of it, the parties have assumed more moderate, pragmatic stands. This was our feeling when we heard the Palestinians today. Doubts about their readiness come to mind, however, when we remember the two recent severe mistakes their leaders made in supporting Saddam and the perpetrators of the Soviet coup. The Egyptians are more ready. When it comes to the Israelis, however, serious questions arise about their readiness, in view of the settlement campaigns Sharon is conducting (allegedly) under the noses of Shamir, Arens, and Levi.

If the parties to the conflict view this conference as yet another a move in a zero-sum game [last three words in English]—where each party believes that whatever the other party gains is its own personal loss and it should therefore do all it can to make the other party only lose—it will undoubtedly fail. To a large extent, such a negative attitude prevailed during the peace talks with the Egyptians. The alternative attitude maintains that making a concession does not necessarily mean a net loss, and that the whole region could gain from reciprocal concessions, if they bring peace and better security for all parties.

Will this be the attitude adopted for the next stages? Time will tell. Even if the positive attitude prevails, however, the peace conference will obviously have its ups and downs. The same happened in the Israeli-Egyptian peace process. There will possibly be significant acts of sabotage and provocation to foil the process. In any event, it is clear that it is a matter of many months, perhaps years. We must therefore brace ourselves with very strong nerves and a lot of patience.

IDF Urged To Encourage Pro-Peace Palestinians

TA0611124391 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 6 Nov 91 p 2

[Editorial: "A Historic Mistake"]

[Text] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq said yesterday: "We do not permit demonstrations of any kind." He was referring to demonstrations of happy residents of the territories, Fatah supporters, who carried olive branches in their hands. Baraq must have forgotten that there was a time when the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] turned a blind eye when the Islamic Mujama', Shaykh Ahmad Yasin's supporters, demonstrated their strength in the Gaza Strip.

The extreme religious members of the Mujama' were perceived as opposition to Fatah and other secular PLO organizations. Residents of the territories have always maintained that the Mujama' gains power under protection of the IDF and the police. The IDF and Israel Police were clearly seen looking the other way when the religious elements rioted against the secular population.

Weddings and parties were crashed and shops that carried alcohol were set on fire. In most cases, no one was detained.

This IDF-Mujama' cooperation was made without any commitment on the part of the ultraorthodox religious body. When construction permits were hardly issued in the West Bank, the Mujama' built hundreds of mosques where they preached the tradition of the Muslim Brotherhood. Some in the Civil Administration pointed to the common interests the IDF and the religious have against the PLO. Those interests have disappeared since the intifadah started. Shaykh Yasin established Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which took up active resistance to the IDF. Hundreds of Hamas supporters currently pack Army detention facilities, and thousands have already been there.

The IDF and the coordinator of government activities in the territories have to reassess our relations with the Palestinian population. In view of the Madrid conference, and after Hamas issued a death verdict against the members of the Palestinian delegation, it is clear that Israel has a clear interest in encouraging the peace supporters. Such a move would not only be practical, it would also correct a historic mistake.

Reportage on Violence, Incidents in Territories

West Bank Truck Attacked

TA0111124591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] Four youths attacked a truck from the territories at the entrance to the [Druze] village of Daliyat al-Karmil. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the four blocked the truck's path, ordered the driver and the other man in the cabin to alight, and then directed automatic gunfire at it. The passengers were unhurt and the gunmen fled.

Police investigators believe that the background of the incident is the murder of a local resident in a Samaria village approximately two weeks ago.

Police Uncover Old City Arab 'Squad'

TA0411174791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] The Jerusalem police have uncovered a squad of Arab youths who are suspected of having been involved in nine incidents of hurling Molotov cocktails at Jews' houses in the Muslim and Jewish Quarters in the Old City. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that reference is to a squad of 11 Arab youths of 16 to 22 years of age, all residents of the Muslim Quarter. Their acts did not result in casualties, but in one incident, about two weeks ago, a burning bottle penetrated a house in the Jewish Quarter and flew over the heads of a mother and her child who were sitting in the room at the time. The squad members confessed to all acts attributed to them and even reconstructed them after their interrogation. Their files were transferred to the State Attorney's Office for the preparation of charge sheets.

4 Nov Territories Incidents Reported

TA0411203491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] In Janin, a young Arab was moderately wounded this morning by Israeli soldiers. An Army patrol pursued two men escaping from the center of Janin where shots had been fired. The two refused to halt, and the soldiers opened fire. One was wounded and taken to hospital; the other escaped.

In Nabulus, there were two processions this morning, supporting peace talks. No violations of public order were reported.

The center of Ramallah has been declared a closed military zone after reports of intended demonstrations.

Pro-Peace March; Riots in Qezi'ot

TA0511121291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] A march in support of the peace process, in which dozens of residents waved olive branches and called for the continuation of the process, was held in Tulkarm this morning. Our correspondent in the territories Udi Segal reports that the demonstration took place in the city center. The security forces declared Tulkarm a closed military zone and prevented a planned rally. They reached an agreement with the residents that a quiet demonstration will be held, which broke up on its own.

During the peace conference in Madrid, riots took place in the Qezi'ot detention center. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has taken several disciplinary measures and did not allow the inmates to listen to the news on the radio due to the riots.

Arab Killed in Janin; Firebombs Thrown

TA0511171991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Three firebombs were thrown tonight at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit in Khan Yunus. Two of them shattered on the road and ignited, but nobody was hurt and no damage was caused. The IDF is searching the area.

A firebomb was thrown this evening at an Israeli vehicle near the settlement of Adora in the southern Hebron hills, but nobody was hurt. The IDF clamped a curfew on the neighboring villages of Tarqumiyah and Bayt Kahil.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a firebomb was thrown at noon at an IDF outlook post in Janin. Nobody was hurt and no damage was caused.

In the village of 'Arrabah in the Janin District, a Border Police unit shot and killed a suspected member of the Black Panther squad in the course of a chase. The victim, 22-year-old Mahdi Abu-Hasan, was carrying an Uzi when the soldiers ran into him. Another suspect who was with him was captured by the security forces.

'Numerous' Incidents After Arab's Death

TA0611133291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Excerpts] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was slightly injured by a stone in Qabatiyah this morning. He was evacuated to an Army clinic, where he received treatment. Troops identified the stone-throwers and opened fire, wounding two locals, who were evacuated to a hospital.

Earlier, a 16-year-old Arab girl tried to stab an IDF officer at the entrance to the Civilian Administration building in Qabatiyah. The officer overpowered and arrested the girl.

An improvised bomb went off near an Army base in the Qabatiyah region this morning. There were no casualties and no damage was caused. IDF forces combed the area.

Our correspondent reports that since last night, numerous attempts to stage disturbances and to attack security forces were made in the area of Qabatiyah and 'Arrabah in the Janin District, in reaction to the killing of a Black Panther squad member in the village of 'Arrabah.

A strike was declared today in the territories in compliance with the orders of the Islamic Jihad. The strike is not being strictly observed. In the Gaza Strip's al-Burayj refugee camp, two Molotov cocktails were thrown at vehicles of Arabs who were trying to leave for jobs in Israel. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. The IDF is combing the area. [passage omitted]

The High Court of Justice has permitted the security forces to demolish a section in the house of 'Abdallah Zaydan Ajrab from the village of Qibya, who had smashed a car into a group of soldiers at the hitchhiking stop at Tel Hashomer junction, killing two and wounding 11. The demolition will be carried out within 15 days. [passage omitted]

General Baraq on Increase in 'Hostile Activities'

TA0511160891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Report by 'Udi Segal]

[Excerpts] In the past few days there has been a drop in stonings in Nabulus, but we cannot view it as a permanent change, Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of staff, said today during a tour of Samaria. Gen. Baraq stressed that in the past month there were more stonings, firebomb incidents, and hostile activities. He linked the increase in hostile activities to tensions within Arab society and attempts by extremists to harm the political process. There has been no significant change so far on the ground in the wake of the Madrid talks, Gen. Baraq said. He warned against a tendency to step up attempted attacks.

[Begin recording] [Baraq] I find it necessary to warn everyone that there are extremists who have arms, firebombs, and explosives. To my regret, I have no doubt that there will be attempts to increase and not lower the level of attacks by extremists.

[Segal] You spoke about an increase in hostile activities. Did you speak with commanders in the field? What is being done in that field in the Nabulus area, and in Judaea and Samaria in general?

[Baraq] The commanders are continuously watching the enemy's activities and we are adapting our actions to them in an attempt to build up irregular and covert activity which depends on good intelligence. [end recording]

The chief of staff stressed that such activity is more efficient and makes it easier to distinguish between the hard core and the majority of the population, which is uninvolved in the violence.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has mixed attitudes to the latest peace rallies. The chief of staff reiterated that it is a new and different phenomenon, but we still cannot speak about a significant change in the wake of the Madrid conference.

There was such a demonstration by several dozen people in Tulkarm this morning with participants waiving olive branches and calling for a continuation of the process. [passage omitted] The Civil Administration did not prevent the demonstration, but requested firmly not to hold a procession throughout the town. The chief of staff spoke about the IDF's policy on the peace processions.

[Begin Baraq recording] We do not permit demonstrations of any kind. At the same time, the field commander considers the best way to disperse a demonstration that had already begun and is not violent. The main problem is that some of the demonstrations which start with olive branches—and you could see here in Nabulus children with olive branches today—quickly become violent with stonings and physical clashes. [end recording]

Since it is difficult to control the demonstrations we prefer to maintain quiet in the streets in the territories, Baraq said.

Fatah Supporters Win Majority in Gaza Elections

TA0511084291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Report from the Gaza Strip by 'Ezra Yanuv]

[Excerpts] The nationalist bloc, made up of Fatah supporters, won the majority of seats in yesterday's elections to the Gaza Strip Chamber of Commerce. Some 1,500 merchants, industrialists, and self-employed artisans out of the 1,700 registered members elected nine members of the nationalist list to the new 16-seat chamber of commerce. Only five candidates affiliated with the Islamic Movement, most of them from the Gaza and Jabalyah area, were elected.

None of the extremist Islamic Movement activists were elected in Khan Yunus, Rafah, and Dayr al-Balah. In Jabalyah, there was a tie between the candidates of both lists; in Gaza City, the two rival factions were almost even. Only two candidates from independent lists were elected to the chamber. The results are considered an achievement in days of tough competition between these two extreme rivals. [passage omitted]

Gaza Strip residents attribute great importance to the chamber of commerce elections, which is the fourth organization to hold free elections, after the bar association and the physicians and engineers associations. In view of the negotiations between Israeli and Arab delegations, the results of the Gaza Strip elections are even more significant in terms of possible internal elections in the future.

'Sources'—PLO Gains 13 Seats

TA0611102691 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Nov 91 p A2

[Report by Eytan Rabin and Yosi Torpstein]

[Excerpt] PLO candidates two days ago won the majority of seats in the elections for the Gaza Strip Chamber of Commerce, PLO sources in Jerusalem reported yesterday. The PLO men won 13 seats, while Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members won only three of the 16 seats. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Health Committee Set Up on West Bank

TA0311102191 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 Nov 91 pp A1, 8

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The defense establishment has set up a Palestinian advisory committee to deal with health issues. The committee has been operating alongside the West Bank Civil Administration for several days. The decision to set up the advisory committee was made even before U.S. Secretary of State James Baker decided on the Madrid conference. The defense establishment made the decision in consultation with the coordinator of activities in the territories.

The advisory committee on health matters functions in coordination with Dr. Yitzhaq Sabar, the staff officer for health matters on the West Bank. One of its members is Dr. 'Isa Salti, the head of Ramallah Hospital.

Defense sources said that the Palestinian advisory committee is supposed to study the health system on the West Bank so that when autonomy is established in the territories, the Palestinians will be able to manage their affairs on their own without an unnecessary interim stage. The committee members have already been given powers and are participating in discussions with staff officers. The West Bank health system provides services to 850,000 Palestinians through six hospitals.

Defense sources said that the very establishment of the advisory committee shows that Israel's intentions to implement the autonomy plan in the territories are serious. An official defense establishment source said that in the future additional advisory committees would be set up in other fields.

The defense establishment and the prime minister's bureau this week completed updating the files on the autonomy plan. Under the plan, health, education, social welfare, and even police matters would be transferred to the Palestinians. Security and foreign affairs would remain with Israel, as would control over water sources. The autonomy files were updated in Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein's office before the Israeli delegation left for Madrid.

Problems of Arrow Missile Examined

TA0611111391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0805 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Talk between anchorman Razi Barqay and HA'ARETZ military affairs correspondent Re'uven Pedatzur on the "It's All Talk" program—live]

[Excerpts] [Barqay] Another launch of the Arrow antiballistic missile—a joint Israeli-U.S. project—has failed. To understand the failure and the problems of this project, we have invited HA'ARETZ journalist Re'uven Pedatzur, who has written a research paper on the Arrow missile. Good morning, Re'uven. What is wrong with the project?

[Pedatzur] Good morning. It is unclear what is wrong, but what is already clear is that at this early stage of the project—in which the real technologies, the true goals of the project, have not been dealt with at all—there have been three failed launches, with more or less the same problem in all of them. [passage omitted]

[Barqay] How much does the whole thing cost?

[Pedatzur] At this stage, the entire development of the missile is being financed by the U.S. Administration, but the Israeli developers are already deliberating about additional investments, such as the fire-control radar for the entire system. They have already decided that this part will be executed by Elta [subsidiary of Israel Aircraft Industries]. The fact is that they do not have the funds for that, because the Americans do not intend to finance any component of the system except for the missile itself.

As for cost: The minimalists among those who have calculated the cost of a comprehensive system to protect the skies of the entire country speak of $3 billion, while realists go as far as $10 billion. I am not certain the defense establishment can foot such a bill in the next few years.

[Barqay] Give me an idea of the technical problems liable to arise.

[Pedatzur] It has not been proved yet that intercepting ballistic missiles is possible. This could be seen in the Gulf war, when the Patriot system, which is based on the highest technological achievements of the 1990's, was unable to down a missile based on 30-year-old technology. Your listeners may be unaware of this, but throughout the entire Gulf war, the Patriot batteries did not hit a single Scud missile—not a single one.

[Barqay] What you are saying is very sad. You are saying that Israel is incapable of destroying enemy missiles in midair.

[Pedatzur] Certainly not now. Speaking of time schedules, the defense minister speaks of 1995 as the year when the Arrow battery will be operational, but elements close to the project claim that if a crude, unfinished system is available in 1999, it will be an enormous technological feat. Thus, we are talking about more than a decade in any event, and I estimate that in 10 years, the threats will not be the ones that the Arrow is designed to combat. [passage omitted]

[Barqay] What you are saying is that the Arrow is superfluous.

[Pedatzur] I am not sure it is superfluous, but I am sure that a lot of questions should be asked before more of the defense budget is invested, because a great deal of money is involved. [passage omitted]

Over 112,000 Settlers Inhabit 142 Settlements

TA0511093691 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Nov 91 p 3

[Report by Tzvi Singer]

[Text] Statistics released by the Council of Jewish Settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza reveal that over 112,000 settlers inhabit the 142 Jewish settlements in the territories.

According to the data, the Jewish population in these settlements grew by almost 20,000 in the past year.

The largest settlement is Ma'ale Adumim, with 3,200 families and 15,750 residents. The second in size is Ari'el (2,500 families, 11,150 residents.) It is followed by Giv'at Ze'ev (1,700 families, 6,850 residents), Qiryat Arba' (1,000 families, 6250 residents), and Qarney Shomron (800 families, 4,650 residents.)

Likud Convention Set for 22 Jun

TA0511100591 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Nov 91 pp A1, 8

[Report by Ilan Shehori]

[Excerpt] Surprisingly, Likud upper echelons have succeeded in agreeing on a date for holding the Likud convention, now expected to start on 22 June and last three days, unless early elections are held before that. The convention was forced on the Likud leadership by the Tel Aviv District Court, which ruled that the Likud Central Committee will become legally invalid as of the beginning of March. After that date, it will no longer be authorized to elect the party's representatives to the Knesset.

The date for holding the Likud convention was determined by a special party committee which met yesterday and which was made up of all the main Likud components and camps which have been discussing the formulation and approval of the Likud constitution for over a year. The committee includes, among others: Minister Ari'el Sharon; Minister Dan Meridor, who represents the Shamir-Arens camp; Knesset Member Re'uven Rivlin, who represents Minister David Levi's camp; and Minister Moshe Nisim, who represents the Likud's liberal component.

The committee further decided yesterday that the Likud Central Committee meeting, slated for 1 December, will be postponed to 22 December. The reason was the realization that the formulation of the Likud constitution will not be completed by the original date.

Last night, members of the Likud upper echelons expressed their belief that the decision to hold the Likud convention and the decision on a date—basically at the demand of members of the David Levi camp—increase the odds that the Shamir-Arens camp will now start pushing for early elections in order to prevent the party convention from being held.

The Shamir-Arens camp may take advantage of the successful Madrid conference and of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's appearances at the conference to lead to new elections and to force the Labor Party to agree to a date between March and June. If that happens, the party convention will have to be postponed until after the general elections. [passage omitted]

PRC Delegation Visits, Explores Trade Relations

TA0411110891 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 4 Nov 91 p 20

[Report by Navit Sommer and Avi Temkin]

[Text] A delegation of nine senior representatives of the PRC's government trade institutions is currently visiting as the guest of Copeco, the Israeli Government company which operates in the PRC and is in charge of Chinese-Israeli trade relations.

The purpose of the professional Chinese delegation's visit is to look thoroughly into direct commercial ties with Israel. The Chinese maintain that they are interested in the possibility of transfers of Israeli technology, in studying the problems and limitations involved in such transfers, and in adapting the Israeli standard to the international standard. They also showed great interest in the food industry. They reported that the PRC Government is currently evincing greater openness toward foreign ties, including ties with Israel. The delegates toured the kibbutz industry in the course of their visit.

[South] Korea has recently sent its commercial representative in Egypt to hold contacts with the Israeli Government and companies over the possibility of bilateral trade deals. According to government sources, there is interest in Israel in marketing Korean-made Hyundai cars.

PRC Official: Relations 'Not Far Off'

TA0511113691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] A senior Chinese official now visiting Israel says that the day is not far off when diplomatic relations will be established between Israel and China. The official met today with Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman, Eliyahu Ben-Elisar. (Son Quan), who is considered one of China's leading experts on the Middle East, is a member of a quasi-government institution in Beijing. He said he had come to Israel to prepare a report on future relations between the two countries.

First Aeroflot Flight With Immigrants Lands

TA0511182591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] The first direct Aeroflot flight from Moscow landed in Israel this evening carrying 125 immigrants. The flight was operated by Transair, an Aeroflot subsidiary. Last month the Jewish Agency signed an agreement with Aeroflot and El Al concerning the operation of regular direct flights carrying Soviet immigrants from Moscow and St. Petersburg to Israel. Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el reports that the second flight under this agreement is due in Israel next Monday.

Minister Briefs Cabinet on Immigration Figures

TA0411113791 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Nov 91 p A7

[Report by Lili Galili]

[Text] During October, 10,584 new immigrants came to Israel, 9,845 of them from the USSR. Since the beginning of the year 150,729 new immigrants have arrived, of whom 125,556 are from the Soviet Union and approximately 20,000 from Ethiopia. These data were provided by Immigrant Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz to the cabinet yesterday.

The immigration forecast for 1991 stands at between 170,000 and 180,000. The distribution patterns for new immigrants in Israel have changed somewhat due to the Ethiopian immigration. Updated statistics show that 32 percent of the new immigrants are currently concentrated in the Haifa and northern region; 47 percent have chosen to reside in the Tel Aviv and central area; and approximately 8 percent live in the Beersheba and southern district.

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives on 'Short Working Visit'

JN0511200791 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman tonight on a short working visit to Jordan. During his visit, he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn and hold talks with Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri and senior Jordanian officials concerning the latest developments of the Palestinian question and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The talks will take place in the wake of the Madrid peace conference and the bilateral talks that followed it between the Arab countries and Israel.

He was welcomed at the airport by Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri, a number of PLO Executive Committee members, the staff of the Palestinian embassy in Amman, and the commander of the Palestine Liberation Army in Jordan.

Arrival Comments

JN0511212791 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Excerpts] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman tonight on a short working visit to Jordan. [passage omitted]

Upon his arrival at Amman's airport, 'Arafat told reporters that he will meet with His Majesty King Husayn to assess the results of the Madrid conference for peace, which he described as successful in general from the Palestinian and Arab point of view. He will also discuss with His Majesty King Husayn the coming stages of action in the interest of the Arab nation and the Palestinian question. He stressed that the issue of Jerusalem—the place from where Prophet Mohammad, may God's peace be upon him, ascended to heaven, and the cradle of Jesus Christ—will top the issues he will discuss with His Majesty King Husayn. He described the performance of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation as excellent, and said that coordination between the two sides was complete and comprehensive. 'Arafat said: The Palestinian intifadah will continue to raise the stone and the olive branch at the same time, until that time when Jerusalem is returned and the Palestinian flag is hoisted over it. He called for resuming the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, which was stopped at an earlier time, since there is no longer any justification for maintaining the freeze on communications.

Replying to a question on the possibility of convening a mini-Arab summit, 'Arafat said there is and will continue to be constant coordination between Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, and the Arab Maghreb Union countries, whether before, during, or after the Madrid conference.

Discusses U.S. Dialogue

JN0511202591 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2005 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman; from the "Panorama" program]

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has affirmed that he has come to Jordan to assess, together with Jordan's King Husayn, the results of this round of the Madrid peace conference. He said that, in general, this round of talks was successful from the Palestinian and Arab point of view. In a statement on his arrival in Amman, 'Arafat said that the performance of the joint delegation in Madrid was both fraternal and excellent.

Concerning a possible visit to Syria, 'Arafat said that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has affirmed to him that he can visit Syria at any time.

On the other hand, the Palestinian leader asked whether or not the time has come to resume the dialogue between the PLO and the United States now that diplomatic relations between the USSR and Israel have been restored. He added that this calls for dealing on the same level and with the same criteria when it comes to the Palestinian-American relationship.

The Palestinian leader is accompanied by a delegation comprised of Sulayman al-Najjab, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, 'Abdallah Hurani, and Bassam Abu-Sharif.

Al-Masri on Peace Talks, Other Issues

JN0511083291 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Nov 91 pp 1,5

["Transcript" of interview given to the JORDAN TIMES by Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri on 4 November]

[Text] [TIMES] How would you assess the Madrid phase, if we can call the opening ceremony and the ensuring bilateral talks as such?

[Al-Masri] It is difficult to give an accurate assessment of the results of the meetings in Madrid and the talks clarified its opening position and its aims from the conference. [sentence as published] There are obvious differences in positions (between the Arabs and the Israelis) but we cannot ignore that the Madrid meetings and the extensive media coverage as well as the great interest have reopened the Palestinian file in front of the world. The performance of the Palestinian delegation was very good and so was the performance of the Jordanian delegation. Also in view of the internationally unaccepted positions of (Israeli Prime Minsiter Yitzhak) Shamir there appears to be a support for the Arab view and in particular the Palestinian view. There is no doubt that this will develop as talks continue. If it is possible to say that the first phase had ended then it has ended to the favour of the Arab view and more precisely in favour of the Palestinian problem.

[TIMES] How do you see then next phases? More precisely, the parallel bilateral and multilateral talks? Can you give us a broad overview of what is yet to come?

[Al-Masri] There are clear issues which are limited to Jordan both in their intricacies and their extent. But the Jordanian handling of the talks will not be solely connected to these limited issues. Following up developments in the Palestinian problem and in coordinating with the Palestinian delegation on this issue. This does not mean that there will be an interfernce in the Palestinian negotiations but there will be an interchange. What takes place in the West Bank and Gaza Strip negatively reflect on the situation in Jordan and that was true before the conference and through any developments in the Palestinian problem or Israeli measures in the occupied territories and will also be true in the negotiations on the interim period. Throughout the dealing or meetings of the Jordanians and the Palestinians it was clear that there was understanding for this (interchange) and Jordan dealt with the Palestinians on this basis. You will find that the coordination between the two delegations and the dealings in bilateral issues whether Palestinian-Israeli or Jordanian-Israeli will continue and will grow continuously.

[TIMES] Some analysts have expressed the fear that there isn't enough commitment in coordination among the Arab delegations to ensure that there will not be unilateral solutions by one state or hindrance of the development of a solution of the Palestinian problem because of the intransigence of another Arab state. How would you comment on these theories?

[Al-Masri] All these issues are there in the minds of the Arab delegations and they want to avoid any conflict, or avoid transferring the conflict from the Arab side towards Israel to become a conflict among the Arabs themselves. Therefore it was obvious in Madrid that the initial Arab positions were similar to a large extent. What followed was not a real conflict as such because it dealt with procedural matters rather than issues of substance on the Palestinian problem. As we stand in Jordan we will not allow any conflict to develop to the extent where this theory would become true. We are aware of this and we think that this also applies to Syrians and the Lebanese. What happened on Saturday while preparing for the bilateral meetings on Sunday has proven that the understanding, coordination and effort between the Jordanians and the Palestinians was on the same wavelength and almost total and therefore things went the way they did. This will be built upon. And it was not the result of a coincidence that occured at that place but a result of coinciding in thought and correlation in interest and a common vision to the future.

There may appear differences in opinions among the Arab delegations at some time or another but there are limits, every Arab side has placed limits, after which a conflict cannot go.

[TIMES] Is there a concrete decision taken on that point?

[Al-Masri] At least I am speaking for the Palestinians and Jordanians. I know that there is a decision to that effect. We are committed to it and we are following it.

[TIMES] But the agreement (among the Arab delegations) has not reached a committing detailed plan?

[Al-Masri] There is no commitment because you cannot commit the Syrians to many issues precisely because the problems which will be faced by the Syrians and the Israelis will be different from those faced by the Jordanians and Israelis or the Palestinians and Israelis.

Therefore we understood from the beginning that there might be progress in negotiations on one front more than another front. It is not required that we should all move in the same speed but we cannot be divided or make unilateral agreements and I think that there is no written commitment on those points but a binding political and moral one among delegations.

[TIMES] There were reports that a Palestinian party would call for a confederation between Jordan, Palestine, Israel and Lebanon. What is your position towards such an idea?

[Al-Masri] We differed in Madrid with Israel on the venue for bilateral negotiations. Israel wants to move it to the region as a way of normalising relations and we have refused this because it is premature to discuss such a step before any tangible development in negotiations takes place. So how, when we differ on a venue, can we be expected to discuss a confederation? These are theoretical reports and are not practical.

[Al-Masri continues] We have priorities which we have to deal with and conclude. Among these priorities are Israeli withdrawal, self-determination for Palestinians and Jewish settlements. These are the issues that have priority. I actually believe that no Palestinian party would issue such a call but perhaps there are people who aim to disperse the Arab thoughts and make us divide our thinking over very wide areas instead of limiting ourselves in limited issues. Therefore I do not think that this is a realistic position or practical or even applicable.

[TIMES] What if the ordinary session reconvenes and the situation between the government and parliament does not improve?

[Al-Masri] It is premature to issue a judgement on this issue but it should be admitted that there are existing facts. One is that there is a petition, which may now be of no value because of the absence of parliament, but it exists and it does express some deputies' stands. There are also parliamentary blocs which have contradictory stands. It is true that they have agreed on one point, but they have their political and local stands which are not similar. But it is very important at this time to avoid a crisis....we should avoid getting into a crisis at any price

because it might reflect negatively on the general situation....I personally think that my first job is to avoid that crisis so that we may protect the things we gained and the foundations by which we have worked.

[TIMES] As we speak about democracy and division of roles among the supporters of the peace conference, your government has been criticised for banning public gatherings, or interfering some which rejected peaceful solutions with Israel? How do you respond?

[Al-Masri] In fact we did not prevent except one rally and that was before the conference. All newspapers which express Arab stands whether they are with or against the conference are allowed to enter the country and are distributed....we did not confiscate any newspaper except for one and only for one week because it carried phrases which we cannot allow; however I should stress that differences in views are allowed. Magazines printed abroad are allowed (and available in the markets).

We were asked to issue permits for several meetings. Before the public rally at the Professional Unions Complex was held, many other gatherings were held in various parts of Jordan and no problems arose in these meetings, nor did we prevent any of them at all. That meeting at the Professional Unions Complex was sanctioned by the government. We also sent TV and radio reporters to record it on television to allow for the expression of other views. We have no intention to oppose such gatherings as long as they abide by the regulations known by all of us.

What happened in the complex was not the responsiblity of the government. There was a group supporting the conference there and chanted pro-peace slogans. There are some accusations, may God forgive those who accuse, but I am telling you that we do not oppose such gatherings....the second day there was a similar rally in Irbid; maybe you did not cover it or hear of it, but there was one. Several others took place in al-Wihdat refugee camp and Jordanian community colleges. They had no problems, were not prevented and no one said anything about holding them. The gathering at the Professional Unions Complex was something we did not oppose and we were the ones who sanctioned it in the first place.

[TIMES] Jordan carries a heavy economic burden, but the ramifications of this problem has not yet been made clear to the public. What kind of measures will the government take to deal with the national debt and its payments?

[Al-Masri] Jordan is burdened with debts....hundreds of millions of dollars are due next year....(Jordan) is unable to pay such sums. We have to go to the Paris Club to negotiate with debtor countries the delay of payment of these loans at later dates.

This meeting might take place in December. But the success of such negotiations will depend on Jordanian economic measures that should be taken. Such measures are limited to a small frame. It is untrue that the government will lift subsidies on some food supplies. The subsidies should go to those who deserve it. (They must) be used in a way which will benefit those who need them.

For example, flour. Flour is not used only in making bread but also in confectionaries, it is sold to foreigners, confectionary factories etc....Our view is that the Jordanian Government or treasury, or in other words, the Jordanian citizens, should support such products which are not essential to the laymen. [sentence as published] Our assessment is that these industries do not deserve the support and we want to direct our subsidies to the normal citizens who deserve such support.

[TIMES] Tension between the government and parliament has been evident during the past few months, but as we are approaching the reconvening of parliament will there be concilatory moves? Will there be a cabinet reshuffle? Or will parliament be dissolved?

[Al-Masri] The government is holding contacts with parliamentary blocs. These are cordial and responsible contacts. It is premature to talk about the results of such contacts. But certainly they are intended to prepare for the next ordinary session of parliament (Dec. 1).

The government and parliament must find a way to surpass the crisis that we passed through. The present circumstances do not permit any imbalances in the equation between the government and the House. The equation that existed between parliament and all previous governments. [sentence as published] I must say that a positive spirit is being crystallised, and I do not want to talk further on the issue. What these contacts would result in would come out in the coming few days.

[TIMES] What are the reasons you think led to this state of affairs?

[Al-Masri] When this government was formd, I put all my efforts into making it a parliamentary government, as far as possible. Although the Muslim Brotherhood did not join, I thought I had the consent of all the other blocs in parliament. But some of the blocs deny they had made any contribution to the formation of the government. The fact is that all the blocs were consulted. Deputies were chosen to become ministers according to that formula. Some blocs said the formulation was not in accordance with the agreement. Some tension and protestation arose during the confidence session. However, the government got the vote of confidence. New elements were added. The political situation in the region was one. Another was my own evaluation of the government. And yet another was the formation of new blocs. This led to a regrettable clash between the executive and legislative branches. This also resulted in deputies signing a paper (calling on the government to resign).

Since we are passing through exceptional circumstances the two sides are required to learn from past lessons and from past circumstances and to try and find a formula

(for coexistence). Not only should they learn from the experience of this government but of past governments as well. In the past the executive branch had hegemony over the legislative. That led to an outcry. Now, the legislative must not dominate the executive nor should it go beyond its limits as outlined in the constitution. There should be a formula. That, to a great extent, is laid down in the constitution and in tradition and past experience. That formula allows every branch to perform its own duties. We are not the only country in the world that bases its powers on this. All democracies learnt their lessons through trial and error. Through that they reached to a formula. I do not know if we are going into that direction. The coming days and weeks will show the extent of our understanding of the nature of the relationship (between the legislative and the executive).

They will provide us with the formula that will allow co-existence between the two.

Withdrawing confidence from a government is both democratic and constitutional. But the reasons for that should be real not temporal. This we will find out before House's next session.

Jordan, in my opinion, is passing through a transitional period. It is true that we are living in a democratic atmosphere, but democracy is new to us. It is true that we have institutions, but these institutions did not assume their role so far. This government is entrusted to bridge the gap between the past and the present. That is why we are facing difficulties. We did not leave the past and we are not the sons of the future. We are still in the middle; our thinking is not clear. The government is suffering from all these accumulations. We want to move society from old frames, through democracy, openness and parliament, into the future. A future that has traditions and concepts of constitution, powers political parties, and freedom. All these are concepts that, regrettably, so far are not clearly defined. Each person interprets these concepts as he/she sees fit. In this transitional period we are passing through, this government is ready to bear all these interpretations. But we have to move on. I think the coming legislations on political parties, the press and others will help us transit this period into the future.

Discusses Next Round of Talks

JN0511170791 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri has said that the Madrid peace conference has produced good results, despite Israel's intransigence. In an interview with London MBC Television, the prime minister said that the first round of the conference was in the interest of the Arabs first, and in the interest of the Palestinians secondly. He noted that Jordan refuses to hold the second round of talks in the Middle East; it should take place in a neutral place outside the region.

[Begin recording] [Al-Masri] The general results of the conference were good, in terms of the Arab viewpoint, despite the opinions expressed by the Israeli prime minister. We expected this from him. Each delegation was expected to present its working plan or the bases in accordance with which it will attend the conference. I personally, therefore, was not surprised at all by what Shamir said. These are his beliefs and we have heard this from him more than once before.

What is the value of Shamir's statements in the coming stage, that is, during the bilateral talks? This is the question we should ask. I believe that the entire world, including one half of Israeli society, says and admits that there is a territory that does not belong to them—that is, the occupied Arab territory, whether the West Bank, Gaza or the Golan—and that Israel should withdraw from these territories; that there are Palestinian people living on this land, and that these people have the right to self-determination.

It is obvious—from the media coverage and the international spirit which began to develop—that such sayings and ideas are clear regarding global public opinion. The Arabs came demanding rights, demanding the implementation of the international law and legitimacy. This is an accepted principle throughout the world. Shamir returned to history and refused to speak about international legitimacy or Security Council Resolution 242.

I believe that the first round was in the interest of the Arabs first and in the interest of the Palestinians second.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, are there signs of good intentions on the part of the Israelis? Plus, do you have any sensitivity regarding holding the coming negotiations in the Middle East capitals?

[Al-Masri] So far, we have not seen signs of good intentions on the part of Israel. To answer your second question, I say: We reject the proposal that the second round of the talks be convened in the Middle East at this time. It should take place in another neutral place, outside the region. And the reason for this is that we refuse to begin normalization with Israel before knowing to what extent it is ready to deal with the Palestine question and the occupied Arab territory.

The media should continue—over the next weeks and perhaps months—to focus on the conference, on the Arab ideas, on the Palestine question, and on the position of the Palestinian delegation. Moving the talks to the Middle East is the beginning of normalization which, as we believe, is unjustified at this time. It would be the beginning of reducing media coverage of the Palestine question, and we reject this as well.

Therefore, we have proposed that the talks remain in Madrid. If this is not possible, we will go to any other neutral capital outside the Middle East. [end recording]

Local BCCI Branches To Open as Business Bank

JN0211083391 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Nov 91 p 3

[By P.V. Vivekanand, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Normal operations at the three local branches of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) are expected to resume Monday under a new name and management with the conclusion Thursday of an agreement between the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) and a local investment bank.

Under the agreement, the Business Bank, hitherto an investment firm and portfolio agents, will raise its capital to the required minimum of JD 5 million and will be given a commercial banking license to operate the three branches.

Raja'i al-Mu'ashshir, chairman of the board of directors of the Business Bank, said the bank had already completed the legal formalities and expected to secure the commercial license before Monday after going through a routine approval process involving the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply and the central bank.

The transfer of ownership of the three BCCI branches in Jordan was agreed in principle in September after the CBJ, which took over the branches following the government seizures of BCCI assets in Europe in early July, found the Business Bank's JD 1.26 million offer the highest among four bidders.

But the formalisation of the agreement was delayed until a court verdict on the fate of BCCI Jordan in view of the international troubles of the Luxembourg-based institution.

The court authorised the liquidation of BCCI Jordan and appointed the CBJ as the liquidator. In turn, the CBJ, in its capacity as liquidators, transferred the ownership to the Business Bank, thus fulfilling the legal requirements.

The JD 1.26 million that the Business Bank paid represents a "sort of fees for the CBJ and cannot be described as the purchase price for BCCI," said an international banking law expert.

"In all legal senses, the CBJ retains the sole responsibility to answer international claims, if any, related to the BCCI branches in Jordan," according to the expert.

"The Business Bank will not have any legal liability in relation to BCCI's international operations," added the expert, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"This explains the CBJ's anxiety to ensure that no legal loophole was left unplugged before formally concluding the deal," he said.

The three branches will remain closed Saturday and Sunday and reopen Monday and resume normal transactions, frozen until now except for certain limited withdrawals permitted by the Central Bank since its take-over in July.

CBJ Governor Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi—in his capacity as liquidator—and Mr. al-Mu'ashshir signed Thursday's agreement.

Under the agreement, the Business Bank undertook to "meet all obligations of the bank" and to deal with BCCI depositors on the same terms and conditions offered by the erstwhile management of the BCCI, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The agreement also stipulates that none of the 90 plus BCCI employees will be dismissed by the Business Bank during the first year after the transfer. The new management also guaranteed the interests of all employees.

Representatives of the European government-appointed receivers visited Jordan in October and held talks with the CBJ over the issue, informed banking sources said.

"They gave their consent to the transfer of ownership," said one of the sources.

The sources said they were not aware of any conditions or agreements reached between the receivers and the central bank. No official comment was immediately available on this aspect.

The three BCCI branches had over 7,000 customers, with a total of JD 66 million in deposits and an equal amount in assets. The outstanding credits are worth JD 21 million, according to figures given by officials earlier.

The CBJ's intervention earlier this year in anticipation of international trouble hitting BCCI averted any major loss for BCCI customers in Jordan. More than 94 per cent of all BCCI deposits in foreign currency had been transferred to the central bank by the time the collapse occurred in July.

"All of the outstanding credits and advances extended by BCCI are fully guaranteed with sound collaterals in Jordan," said Fakhri al-Bilbaysi, regional manager of BCCI, who is expected to continue with the Business Bank.

Hizballah Assails 'Phony' Palestinian Negotiators

NC0611101991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0650 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Station political commentary entitled: "Peace for the Subservient"]

[Text] If we liken the recent round of the settlement conference to a soccer game, we may assume that Israel has won by one goal to nil. Israel has achieved in the few days of the Madrid conference a goal toward which it has been working for decades; namely, negotiations with the Arabs. Israel achieved that goal at no cost and with no commitment whatsoever. Israel has won the first round because despite the high-flown rhetoric and the fact that everyone spoke their minds during the conference, no one was allowed to walk out.

Recognition, normalization, handshakes, and smiles are the foremost achievement of such a conference. Perhaps some Arabs believe that shaking hands with the Jews is a splendid accomplishment. This is true for those Arabs who are reluctant to coordinate with fellow Arabs so as to prevent the Israelis and Americans from dividing their ranks and subjecting them to extortion. There are some Arabs who are so desperate to sit at the negotiating table that they would not listen to advice. These Arabs went to the conference with such enthusiasm and exuberance as if they were the prime movers behind it. Some Arabs even ordered olive branches to be handed to the Jews and organized so-called pro-peace demonstrations under the protection of Zionist bayonets.

This is naivete in its deadliest form. This is the same naivete which led to the loss of Arab rights. Some Arabs are even thankful that the Americans have let them take part in the peace festivities.

What peace are we being offered? What peace is going to be imposed on us? The peace of the subservient; the peace of those who are solely thinking of how to fill their empty stomachs; the peace of those who have decided to give up completely on their past and future rights.

A heated debate ensued among those who went to the conference. Arabs were arguing with Jews as if they were really at odds. But at the negotiating table, phony Palestinians shook hands with the murderous Jew, whose hands are still stained with the blood of our sons.

Let our people in Palestine and our kinfolk in the occupied land hear this. Let those whose homes were confiscated in East Jerusalem in a flagrant act of injustice know that some phony liars have been speaking on their behalf and have been shaking hands with the usurpers of their homes. Damned is the hand that was held out for the Jews. This hand has made the Palestinian problem a serial murderer deflowering the virtuous and desecrating the mosques. [sentence as heard] This voice in Gaza minarets scares them and damns them. They want to silence it so that they may sit with the enemy quietly, shake hands with him, and maybe embrace him as well. Have we not been neighbors for over half a century? Is this not the time for us to start hugging and shaking hands and meeting instead of harboring bad feelings and animosity? And, instead of enmity, we may even start showing love and admiration for the Jews. This is what the so-called Palestinian delegation is simply doing.

Fadlallah on Talks; Sees 'Cracks' in U.S. 'Wall'

NC0611084691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Voicing his rejection of the settlement conference, Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said that the Madrid conference was held under Israeli conditions and the reason for that can be found in the character of the Arabs who took part in it. Explaining this point of view, his eminence said that one of those participants was Egypt, a tool which Washington is using to contain any Arab rejection. Arabs from the Gulf, the Arab Maghreb—excluding Algeria and Libya—and Jordan also took part in the conference. Syria and Palestine also went to the conference, he noted.

Ayatollah Fadlallah cited one of the Palestinian leaders with whom he met in Madrid [as heard] as saying that the Palestinians were threatened that unless they attended the conference, large-scale massacres would be perpetrated against the Palestinian people everywhere—massacres beyond anyone's imagination. Tunisia, the Palestinians were told, would expel the PLO and the Palestinians, and other Arab countries would impose harsher restrictions on them than those imposed by the Gulf countries.

Speaking during a radio interview, Fadlallah said that the secret behind holding the conference under these circumstances can be summed up in one word: weakness. He added: There is a weakness which the weak choose of their own volition, and there is a weakness which is imposed on the weak to make them give up finding the source of their strength. Fadlallah said that America also wants to pose as a champion of peace, impose its hegemony over the region, and help Israel achieve all its goals.

His eminence said that America and Israel are coordinating their strategies in this game so that America will not be embarrassed and Israel will not need to make concessions. During the conference, he noted, much fuss was made about the issue of venue and other procedural matters so that Israel would gain time to build settlements and absorb Jewish immigrants, leaving the Arabs with nothing to discuss.

Ayatollah Fadlallah said: The Arabs are making concessions for America, while the latter is pressuring them in every way. America is pressuring Syria and is seeking to weaken and isolate it.

His eminence urged a search for holes and cracks in the American wall in order to sneak through that wall and

shake down the whole structure. He noted the continuous economic growth in Europe, Japan, and the PRC.

Fadlallah focused on the issues of narcotics and the economy, which are giving the U.S. Administration sleepless nights. He said: These are cracks through which it is possible to infiltrate and shake down the American-sponsored international order.

Ayatollah Fadlallah said that the Tehran conference was able to tell the rejectionists that there is a path to be followed and a task to be addressed. It is true, he said, that the Tehran conference will not achieve its lofty goals anytime soon, but the mere pursuit of these goals may be the prelude for more effective acts of rejection in the future.

Comments on Madrid Talks, Government Policy

NC0611103191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has spoken about the circumstances of Lebanon participating in the Madrid conference, and the Israeli role in the south.

He told Voice of the Mountain: There is an Israeli ploy to distance Lebanon from Syria by insinuating that if Lebanon gets nearer to Israel it would then get the withdrawal it wants. If it stays at a distance from Israel, nearer to Syria, this would pose a problem. He added: Studying the enemy's plans in the Lebanese question we can tell that he might withdraw from Lebanon. But I believe there are basic conditions for this, such as Syria withdrawing and Lebanon being isolated from its Arab family to move nearer Israel which, like it, has Christian and Jewish minorities. He said that Israel wants to put Lebanon in its sphere of influence at the expense of Syrian influence and with United States cooperation. Lebanon has no cards to play and can only listen and rush to the U.S. lap whenever Israel exerts pressure. Whether or not Lebanon enters the conference it will take only what the United States and Israel want to give the Arabs in the coming stage.

Fadlallah dealt with Lebanese Government policy. He said: The government's composition and its political performance convince us that this regime was not chosen by accurately assessing the Lebanese people's needs for a firm future assured by the government. This regime was a way out of a crisis which necessitated the al-Ta'if accord. This is not a government but a tribal alliance with political hues. We know that the government's composition and its mentality represent a distorted and unbalanced phenomenon in which every one looks for his own niche but collectively cannot agree the main policy.

On some quarters' pretexts about events in the south, Fadlallah said: By studying the Israeli plans, the extent of the Israeli reaction, and Israeli shelling of civilians, we can tell that Israel does not need a pretext. Were the 1978 and 1982 invasions justified by the resistance operations? Did they cause all the Israeli aggressions? The difference between some people and Israel is that Israel acts from the position of action in the form of a reaction, some people act out of reaction even if they are thinking about taking action. We tell those who speak of Israel as the peaceful side and the resisting people as hostile: If your equation stems from imbalance between Israel and the resistance, why did you not notice the balance between you and Syria when you fought it? Why did you not speak about peace in Lebanon during your battles with Syria? Why are you speaking about the resistance in the south as a defendant, an aggressor, or an agent? Why do you consider its war to liberate the south one carried out on behalf of others? Since you claim you are a Lebanese resistance, why do you not defend Lebanon's borders?

Fadlallah added: If you are speaking of imbalance, was there a balance between you and Syria when you fought it as an occupying country? You claim you want a self-respecting reason. We believe that those who speak this way have no respect for reason.

U.S. Seen Pursuing 'Constructive Ambiguity'

PM0611102691 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 1 Nov 91 p 13

[George Sam'an article: "United States Between Assistance And Pressure"]

[Text] At the opening session of the Madrid conference President George Bush specified the ultimate aims of the negotiations among the parties to the conflict in the Middle East, calling for a comprehensive and just settlement. But he left to the people of the Middle East the responsibility for building a new order for that region. An examination of the elements of that order will begin with the launch of the bilateral negotiations, which will focus on ending the conflict, but they will not be crystallized until the multilateral negotiations on the regional issues—from arms control through the questions of water, the environment, economic development, and so on.

It seems clear that the U.S. Administration is still adopting the approach of "constructive ambiguity" pursued by Secretary of State James Baker since his early tours of the region. The aim has of course been announced by Washington on several occasions, most recently at the opening session of the conference—namely, that there will be no intervention by the conference's sponsors to impose solutions or draw up settlements. This, because it believes that it is the fact of the negotiators' sitting down together in the same room for discussions that will develop the features and outlines of the solutions. And all the U.S. side has to do is to sit in an adjacent room to watch, listen, and intervene when necessary to end "any clashes."

In other words, the U.S. Administration, which has granted the negotiating parties unclear assurances, as though granting them nothing, believes that a settlement

will be produced through the bilateral negotiations and then the multilateral negotiations, which is why none of the delegations has hitherto refused to broach any issue. Syria has not definitely rejected the principle of discussing regional issues if it will help to accelerate the peace process, as President Hafiz al-Asad said. Nor has Shamir refused to broach the subject of the occupied territories at the negotiating table. He did not even say in his speech—which appeared as part of the past instead of the future—that he would not withdraw from the occupied territories, even if they appear to be very small compared with the vast Arab territory! But he did make it clear and unambiguous that he had not come to discuss the future of these territories. He ignored the subject, even though it is the basis of the conference. In fact he tried to concentrate on the regional questions, reinformcing Damascus' fears that Israel came to Madrid to obtain a share of the region's wealth for nothing in return.

Be that as it may, before reaching that stage of negotiations the Arab parties do not seem to be agreed on a clear stance in that regard, though it does seem that there is agreement that they should be held in Madrid and not in the region's capitals, as Shamir wants. What is more, no clear agenda has been drawn up for the bilateral and then multilateral talks. Washington has even left this matter to the the negotiating parties.

But the United States' refraining from intervening will not be the same when the negotiations begin in earnest on the two parts concerning the conflict and the regional questions. This, because the U.S. Administration knows that none of the negotiatiors will have the courage to leave the room or jump off the train. This is why there will be a pressing need for its role as an active mediator to help not only in crystallizing the positions, as President Bush said in his inaugural speech, but in drawing up the broad outlines for a settlement. So it will be much more than just good offices.

Washington has many intervention and pressure cards in its hand. So while it has played this game with Shamir and temporarily blocked the granting of loan assurances which will be used to house Jewish emigrants, it is playing the same game with regard to regional negotiations, which it promises will result in aid, development, the cancellation of debts, and so on. But that game is not entirely devoid of risks, especially if negotiations continue for a long time, as the Israelis hope—one, two, or three years. This, because the procrastination sought by Shamir could create a "coup" in the region—not the coup sought from a just and comprehensive peace, but another kind.

'Arafat Dismisses Fatah Lebanese Fighters

NC0511065491 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Our radio correspondent in Morocco has obtained exclusive information indicating that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat last week ordered the dismissal of all Lebanese fighters from the Fatah Movement and ended payment of their salaries. Well-informed sources link this move with the meeting between President Ilyas al-Hirawi and 'Arafat in Paris last week.

Karami Comments on Israeli 'Threats'

NC0611070191 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Israel's obstinate stand at the peace conference was demonstrated in practice yesterday when it threatened to expand the border strip in Lebanon and increase acts of aggression against the people of the south and western al-Biqa' and also declared the building of a settlement in the occupied Golan Heights. This has provoked widespread reaction. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker denounced this by saying that whoever commits such actions does not serve the peace effort.

Commenting on the Israeli threats, Prime Minister 'Umar Karami said: It is not strange for Ari'el Sharon to make such statements, for he is known for his bloody, terrorist history of extremism against Lebanon and all the Arabs. The fact is that Sharon's statements are consistent with Israel's policy in addressing the current regional issues. Israel daily says that it is ready for everything except real peace, which it claims to be seeking.

Prime Minister Karami said these allegations and threats will not change Lebanon's stand at all; namely, adherence to international legitimacy and its resolutions and their complete implementation. If Ari'el Sharon and the Israeli Government seek to expand the occupation of Lebanon and Lebanese territories, we leave these expansionist intentions to the world public and the United States and the Soviet Union, the co-sponsors of the Madrid peace conference.

Israel Reopens Crossing Points to South Lebanon

NC0611091291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Reports received from the south today did not mention any new developments in the security situation. The crossing points between the security strip and the southern areas in the central and western sectors were reopened today. Israel also reopened the crossing points on the international border to Lebanese workers between the ages of 15 and 35.

During a tour by our correspondents in the security strip yesterday, they noticed frequent mechanized patrols by the Israeli Army. They also noted observation posts overlooking positions from which it is suspected that the fundamentalists infiltrate. The patrols moved mainly on the road leading from 'Aramta to al-Rayhan and (al-Zaffatah).

SLA's Lahd Discusses 425, Evacuation, Resistance

NC0611100591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] In an interview with the Voice of Lebanon [VOL], Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of South Lebanese Army [SLA], ruled out an Israeli invasion [of Lebanon] at present. He said: The Jazzin issue is not subject to Resolution 425 and no one but myself will negotiate on it. He indicated that if American-Israeli negotiations are held to hand over Jazzin to the legitimate authority, I, as Lahd says, will not hand it over.

On the Lebanese Government's pledge that not a single bullet will be fired at the border after Israel withdraws from the south, Lahd said: Those in the Lebanese state who say this are not convinced of what they say. He indicated that those who open fire are followers of either Syria or Iran and that the Lebanese state has no influence over these two countries. He emphasized that Israel has no ambitions for Lebanese territory. He referred to an official Israeli confirmation of this, citing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Lahd said that the problem is a security one and affirmed that Lebanon will obtain the implementation of Resolution 425 if the Lebanese interests are pursued before the Arab and Syrian ones.

Lahd narrated the story of the warning SLA addressed to the Kafr Rumman people. He emphasized that the warning was made out of its eagerness not to harm the civilians when the fundamentalists' targets were shelled.

Regarding the issue of the prisoners and hostages, Lahd said that the SLA has released a sufficient number of Lebanese detainees and that the only response it received was the handing over of the body of one Israeli soldier by the Palestinians. He said: We hope that the other party will respond. At present, there is no intention to release other detainees.

Let us listen to a recording of Lahd's interview:

[Recording] [Unidentified VOL correspondent] Lebanon is demanding the implementation of Resolution 425. When Lebanon called for the implementation of this resolution, Israel set conditions for implementing it. In your opinion, what is demanded of Lebanon in this respect?

[Lahd] I do not know what conditions Israel has set. It did not communicate them to me. I was not present during the meetings. But I know only one thing: The State of Israel has no ambitions toward Lebanese territory. Shamir declared that during his presence at the conference in Madrid. Shamir said: We do not covet an inch of Lebanese territory.

This is a fact which I have been feeling throughout the eight years I have been here. I feel that they have no ambitions toward Lebanese territory. This means that there is no basic problem between us and the State of Israel.

There is a security problem and a peace problem. Regarding the security problem, you have to prove that you can maintain security and this has conditions which should be studied. Peace follows security.

[Correspondent] Through your contacts and information, what is Lebanon required to do so that Resolution 425 may be implemented?

[Lahd] I do not know what is required. I know that if the Lebanese interests are pursued and these interests are put before the Arab and Syrian ones, I believe Lebanon will obtain the implementation of Resolution 425. If Lebanon wants to realize the Arab and Syrian interests before the Lebanese ones in this regard, it will be very difficult for Resolution 425 to be implemented. It cannot be implemented if the resistance continues. This is the first condition.

[Correspondent] It is being said that Israel is demanding the revival of the 17 May agreement or the conclusion of a security agreement similar to it.

[Lahd] As far as I know, I do not believe that any Israeli has been raising the idea of the 17 May agreement in front of me. I do not know. [end recording]

Terrorist Groups Said Training Pilots

NC0611085591 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] The Italian newspaper CORRIERE DELLA SERA reports that terrorist organizations are training glider pilots in the al-Biqa' Valley to carry out terrorist operations against Israel. The paper says that the gliders have recently been purchased from Germany and Iran. Members of Hizballah, the Islamic Jihad Organization, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command, and the Fatah Uprising Organization, which has split from 'Arafat's Fatah, are taking part in the training. The paper adds that these organizations are planning to carry out terrorist operations against the Arab states which are taking part in the peace process, foremost of which are Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia.

Al-Hirawi Briefs Karami on Latakia Summit

NC0511082691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Upon his return to Beirut from Latakia yesterday, President al-Hirawi contacted Prime Minister 'Umar Karami and briefed him on the results of his summit meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Commentary On Tehran U.S. Embassy Siege

NC0511105291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0650 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] "The American age" is the name they are giving to the age in which we live; an age of invincible American power; and world domination that knows no limit in time and place.

They say that the unbridled worldwide American power was not created recently, but over a period since the early 1950's, after war-exhausted major states dwarfed to a new power which was developing and achieving superiority in several fields. They also say that this power will continue despotic, domineering, and to dominate man, rock, and everything. Saying this, they depend on certain phenomena and signs, events and realities, and sometimes fantasy and imagination to build their analysis, adopt certain stands, and line up to express loyalty and obedience. [passage omitted]

Those who say this are from the Third World, at least most of the Third World—a world crowded with human beings in its five continents. We speak of the Third World because it is the nearest. This does not mean that the countries of the second or first worlds—the European states and their economic equals—do not share the belief discouraging the search for justice and freedom. [passage omitted]

Most rulers praise America day and night, kneeling before it more than five times a day, consecrating it as a god whose domination cannot be escaped. They worship America out of fear and hope: Fear that it might get angry and force them to step down from the thrones which are shaking under their shivering bodies; and hope that they will satisfy America and be allowed to continue to lead.

The popular awakening of our nation shows that few people were dragged by their rulers into adopting that belief. The people are reacting to their rulers' conduct, day and night rejecting American hegemony and domination of the Muslim states.

It is no coincidence that these words should be said today in our political commentary, based on events, primarily the occupation of the American spy den in the capital of Islam, Tehran, 12 years ago, which we clebrate today. That event and others similar showed the world that the peoples never die but always monitor conspiracies, regardless of the source or the conspirators' power. The people abort and respond to these conspiracies, regardless of the sacrifice.

Occupying the spying den was the greatest blow dealt America by a people who believe that no power is bigger than the Almighty and that all powers are too small and too insignificant to be worshiped instead of the Lord of the universe. The Iranian people raised the slogan "God is great", had complete faith in it, and categorically rejected any attempt to humiliate them.

As talk grows about America and its age, it is enough to turn to the memory of that day to learn the lesson and stand in one line to worship God and destroy the idols and their worshippers everywhere.

British Official on Talks, Hostages Issue

NC0511150891 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] David Gore-Booth, British assistant foreign secretary for Middle East affairs, today visited President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, and Prime Minister 'Umar Karami. He was accompanied by British Ambassador in Lebanon David Tatham.

Following his meeting with the president, Gore-Booth said that he discussed the general situation and the international conference.

His talks with the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, he said, dealt with the good relations between the two countries and their parliaments. They also discussed the situation in the south and the British Government's stand on the need to implement Resolution 425, and touched on the Madrid conference.

Gore-Booth said he raised the hostages issue with Speaker al-Husayni, adding: If we can resolve this problem, it will strengthen our bilateral relations. He noted that the hostages issue will not delay aid to Lebanon and that the British Government will contribute to international aid through the EC. He understood Lebanon was improving, and hoped the hostages would be released soon, adding that al-Husayni expected the same.

Following his meeting with Karami, the British official said that they discussed foreign hostages in Lebanon, especially Terry Waite, and hoped that the problem would be solved soon, with the freedom of Terry Waite and the others, because I feel that this would reflect Lebanon's image as a country taking tangible steps toward normality, and rebuilding. He added: His excellency the prime minister told me that Lebanon is the principal hostage, but hoped this problem would be solved. We discussed the south and the Middle East peace conference.

Asked if he would meet any of the parties to discuss the hostages issue, the British minister said: The aim of my visit is not related to foreign hostages. I am here to convey the British Government's wish to strengthen ties with Lebanon following the end of the Lebanese tragedy. I have not met any party except Lebanese officials.

Al-Asad, al-Hirawi on Coordination, South Lebanon

JN0411185691 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] At 1100 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

Discussions dealt with developments at the Middle East peace conference in Madrid. The importance of continuing coordination between the two countries was stressed. Both sides' had unified views on the next phases of the work of the conference. They reviewed developments in southern Lebanon.

During the meeting, President Ilyas al-Hirawi reviewed the positive results of his recent tour which took him to France, Italy, and the Vatican.

Al-Shar' Briefs al-Asad on Peace Conference

JN0511163991 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning. Al-Shar' explained to the president the proceedings of the Madrid peace conference.

Briefs Cabinet

JN0511182391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Damascus—The Council of Ministers held a meeting at 1100 today under Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. During the meeting, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' made a comprehensive review of the proceedings of the peace conference that was held in Madrid. He explained that Syria's position proceeded from the firm pan-Arab principles, which were in line with the Syrian policy aimed at solving the Arab-Israeli conflict in a just and comprehensive way, without relinquishing any inch of the occupied Arab territories and complying with the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the restoration of their legitimate national rights.

Al-Shar' asserted that Syria's participation in the Madrid peace conference came in response to international efforts and out of its eagerness to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, on the basis of international legitimacy and in accordance with UN resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338. He added that the conference has exposed more than ever the intransigent Israeli position, which conflicts with the world's movement toward peace and which constitutes an obstacle in the face of a just and comprehensive solution. The conference also revealed Israel's expansionist logic, which it was eager to conceal from world public opinion.

Al-Shar' also affirmed that through its venue and publicity, the peace conference has provided the world with the real picture of Israel's goals in the region—goals which it has been trying to conceal and camouflage by its continued maneuvering to keep the conference and the talks away from the basic realities of the Arab-Israeli conflict resulting from the continued Israeli occupation, the establishment of settlements, and the rejection of the principle of land for peace.

The foreign minister stressed that global public opinion directly acquainted itself with Israel's fallacies, intransigence, and lack of seriousness in working to reach a solution, that will lead to the restoration of the Arab's usurped rights and the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

After the foreign minister concluded his political review, the Council of Ministers reviewed the different facts related to the peace conference and its present course, stressing the importance of Syria's position at the conference, both on the pan-Arab and international levels, as well as the importance of confronting the fallacies of the Israeli delegation, which tried to create historical, geographical, political, and human facts. The ministers' review concluded that the objective confrontation of the Israeli fallacies was effective in projecting the Syrian role and the Arab rights with their brilliant human face, and in portraying Zionism with its hostility toward international legitimacy and the logic and cultural values of the age.

The Council of Ministers also affirmed that Syria's strong and decisive presence at the conference effectively contributed to epitomizing its principled, firm position under President Hafiz al-Asad. It also exposed Israel's condemned reality by all international and human criteria. The council also stressed that Syria is eager to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, and to reinforce its serious march under international legitimacy and its relevant resolutions.

During the meeting, the Council of Ministers also heard a report from the higher education minister on the positive results of the 31st science week being held at Tishrin University in Latakia, which hosts a large number of Arab and foreign researchers. It also listened to a report from the culture and national guidance minister on the results of her visit to Morocco, and her participation in the Syrian cultural week there.

Determination To Continue Peace Process Noted

JN0311153891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Amid momentous talk about peace and persistent efforts in Madrid to push things toward the main objectives of the peace conference, Israel seizes every opportunity and capitalizes on every excuse to suggest to the world that peace is still impossible, and that the situation in the Middle East is open to further conflict and confrontation, not to peace, security, and stability. For this purpose, Israel heated up the situation in southern Lebanon yesterday and the day before. It

escalated the situation there to the point of explosion, threatening a new confrontation on the Lebanese front. The world neither knows the justifications nor realizes the hidden implications of this confrontation.

Perhaps a quick pause at the developments of the three days Israel experienced in Madrid will prove to all observers that the world tangibly felt the extent of the injustice inflicted on the Arabs, and the Palestinians in particular, throughout the past four decades. The world also realized how fragile the false illusions from which Israel weaves its ideological cover to perpetrate against us all forms of aggression, expansion, and settlement are. Israel felt it is now standing in the dock, before the entire world. It, therefore, is trying to break the siege by creating a hotbed in the Middle East. It is seeking to distract world attention from what is happening in Madrid and drown us all in new complications and an additional conflict to deplete efforts and attract a lot of attention so as to lead the Madrid onference up a blind alley, and drive the world to abandon its efforts for peace and replace them with limited and protracted attempts to extinguish a fire here or there within the conflict.

We knew beforehand that the logic of aggression would not hold before the logic of right in any peace conference, and that Israel's claims will fall one after the other when the sun of truth shines and the Arabs tell the world about everything Israel perpetrated against us and against humanity over the past long years. We also knew that when it loses its excuses, Israel will work to sabotage the peace conference by all means so as to escape the scrutinizing eyes that have been focussing on Israel since the morning of 30 October. We knew that Israel would heat up the situation in the region to prove valid the views of its adventurist leaders—namely, that a conference like Madrid's leads to war, not to peace.

Of all its persuasions in the East and West, the world, especially the two sponsors of the Madrid conference, are now called upon to catch the significance of the reckless Israeli moves and to curb Israel's attempts to tamper with peace and destroy the very foundations of the peace conference. Continuing the aggression, and threatening to use aggression while we all, together with the entire world, are examining the best ways to find a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Zionist conflict and implement UN resolutions, will torpedo the foundations of the international efforts to hold the peace conference and strike at the very heart of world credibility.

We are determined to continue the peace conference and to achieve peace regardless of Israel's current intentions and plans. We are fully aware that peace is now besieging Israel from all directions, foiling all the excuses it used for 40 years of aggression and expansion while falsely claiming concern about security and peace.

Press Calls for Arab 'Alertness' in Talks

JN0411082291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Madrid Conference Exposed Israel's Aggressiveness," AL-BA'TH says: As we, together with many in this world, have expected, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir did not go to Madrid to achieve peace. He went there to underscore an entrenched fact; namely, Israel was established on aggression and expansion, and it will continue this policy even if the whole world stands against it.

AL-BA'TH adds: Those who followed Shamir while speaking in Madrid became certain that he did not refer to the issue of just peace, Resolutions 242 and 338, or international legitimacy and the United Nations. He wants the Arabs to forget their occupied land and rights and to pay allegiance to Shamir.

The newspaper says: Shamir went to Madrid more intransigent and more adhering to the occupation of the Arab territory and to disregarding the rights of the people of Palestine. He said: If the issue of land is presented, the negotiations will reach a deadlock. Shamir was not satisfied with underscoring his position rejecting any principle of peace, but went further than this by disregarding all those who were present when he delivered his speech, left the conference, and returned to Tel Aviv to prepare for launching new aggressions against southern Lebanon. Perhaps, Shamir is preparing for a new invasion of Lebanon. Before the opening of the Madrid conference, his war minister Arens announced that the results of the Madrid conference might bring war closer rather than peace.

The newspaper affirms that this is the reality of Israel. Whoever believes that Israel will make one step toward peace is mistaken. It wants everything for free from the Arabs. We would like to reiterate that the coming danger is aimed against all the Arabs. They should be aware of this fact.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: We believe that the Madrid conference was a historic and unique opportunity to expose the reality of Israel. And this makes us call on the international community to adopt the required position out of concern for international legitimacy and world peace vis-a-vis what Israel did in terms of undermining the peace conference while in its early stages.

Commenting on the same topic, TISHRIN says: After the Arabs have won the round of the first stage of the Madrid peace conference—which exposed the intransigent Israeli policy and the aggressive, expansionist course of the Zionist enemy leaders—the second stage of the conference requires more vigilance and alertness from all the Arabs vis-a-vis the Israeli policy, which is

hostile to peace, its attempts to evade the real requirements of peace, and its maneuvers to derail the peace conference from its objectives and bases.

TISHRIN adds: During the first three days of the Madrid conference, it became clear that Israel still sticks to its stands, refusing to implement international legitimacy resolutions, insisting on clinging to the occupied Arab territory, disregarding the rights of the people of Palestine, and considering—as Shamir claimed—that the root of the conflict in the region is neither land nor geography, but the Arabs' nonrecognition of Israel's existence.

The newspaper adds: Suffice to say here that Yitzhaq Rabin, former war minister and the second man in the Labor Party, expressed his feelings of great regret because the Shamir government continued to adhere to its stands and course vis-a-vis what it considers priorities. Rabin added that there are big question marks as to whether or not the Shamir government will exploit the peace opportunity. Regardless of Rabin's motives behind announcing his doubts and his objective of highlighting the Israeli non-credibility, he is reinforcing Arab and international conviction that the Shamir government is seeking opportunities and, perhaps, fabricating pretexts and considering them difficulties, obstacles, and a kind of rigidness and extremism on the part of the Arab side in order to undermine and torpedo the peace conference.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: There is no doubt that escalating the settlement-building, rejecting withdrawal, and preparing a large-scale aggression against Lebanon by Israel while the world is looking at the historic Madrid peace conference, expose the reality of the Israeli aggressive and expansionist intentions. This also shows that the Shamir government is indifferent to all calls for stopping its intransigent and rejectionist policy. It is also indifferent to international legitimacy and to regional and world peace and security.

Commentary Says Government Serious About Peace

JN0411170291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: No one in this world still doubts the seriousness with which we approached the peace efforts and the clarity with which we entered the Madrid conference hall and our sincere desire to lay the foundation for peace in the region and attain a just and comprehensive solution on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Neither does anyone in the world doubt that our acceptance to participate in the Madrid conference was neither a maneuver nor a tactic to achieve other than the objectives for which the peace conference was held. We can clearly reiterate here that we firmly believe in peace and work for it with all our potential without relinquishing a right or bargaining over a just demand. With the same clarity, we can say that we cannot transform peace into propaganda with which we embellish the facade of our political action while in reality we stab it to the core. Neither can we tackle peace as if it were a slogan that is devoid of content.

Israel, which nowadays is raising a hue and cry over peace, needs to prove it really wishes peace and that it believes in it and must offer proof that it wishes to push the peace process ahead. In addition to what the world and we have heard from Yitzhaq Shamir during the first two opening days of the Madrid peace conference, statements which instead of serving the peace process seek to undermine the Israeli activities that are underway on the ground could also be a factor undermining the very foundations of the peace process and a major cause for the collapse of the peace conference and the loss of the present opportunity on which the world pins much hope.

The continued implementation of the settlement policy in this provocative manner, which was condemned by the world, is not in line with any talk about peace. The disregard for Resolutions 242 and 338 in the statements by the members of the Israeli delegation to the Madrid peace conference is a disavowal of peace and an intentional tampering with this peace. This is so because the world at large knows that the Madrid conference has convened on the basis of these two resolutions and on the basis of the principle which states that land should be exchanged for peace.

Perhaps international public opinion has also heard us say how intransigent we have found the Israelis to be at the Madrid conference, and how eager they are to tackle secondary issues and avoid tackling basic issues in an attempt to avoid the discussion of the peace process, waste time, and persist in their opposition to the international consensus. The international public opinion has heard us say that we want to exploit every moment to render the Madrid talks a success on the road to peace for the attainment of a just and comprehensive solution that we and the world hope for.

How long will Israel continue to flout the region's fate in this manner, circumvent peace, defy the international consensus, and deceive international public opinion at a time when the world is inclined to settle conflicts and open the door to the supremacy of international law and the spread of the banner of peace and security in all parts of the world?

We will not retract our peace course and we will not change any of our objectives and principles, regardless of the magnitude of the overt Israeli maneuver because we know our rights very well and we know the course to follow to obtain them. We also know that the world supports us after it became aware of the truth and realized that we have always been on the side of right and that we will press for only that to which we are entitled according to justice.

Press Views 'Peace Battle', Israeli Actions

JN0311084791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Press review]

[Excerpts] In an editorial under the headline "Stage One: The Magician's Trick Has Backfired," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The first round of the long peace battle has proved that in the Middle East, truth and falsehood are absolutely clear. It has also proved that the inauguration of the Madrid conference was an outstanding occasion for the international community to again profoundly realize this plain fact.

AL-BA'TH continues: One might say that it is unnecessary to clarify the obvious or to reiterate axioms and facts known to the entire world. Such a remark cannot hold, however, before the volume of distortion and falsification effected by the Zionist propaganda machine throughout the world in the past.

The paper emphasizes that when Israel's allegations about Arab rejection became obsolete, the Israeli logic was knocked down in the first round. No one any longer believes that the Arabs are enemies of peace and that Israel is a peace-lover, or that Israel is the victim of aggression and that Arabs are the aggressors.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Israeli rulers' intentions against a just, comprehensive peace have been flagrantly exposed, and the world has viewed with disdain the Israeli chief delegate's hallucinations which have no [words indistinct] the world of today.

The paper says: We the Arabs, particularly Syria, have never been afraid of peace and have never evaded the peace conference. Rather, we have demanded that a peace conference be held from the time that the United Nations issued resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict, especially Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as Resolution 344 on the convening of a Middle East peace conference. We have gone to Madrid of our own accord and will, and with a sincere desire to seriously strive for a just, comprehensive peace. Based on this desire, we will cooperate with the two cosponsors of the conference to prevent any attempt to derail or torpedo the conference, or to prevent it from reaching the objective for which it was convened—namely, the restoration of territories and rights to their rightful owners and the establishment of an enduring peace in the Middle East.

The paper indicates that the world today, more than ever before, realizes that peace cannot be achieved unilaterally, that peace and occupation cannot be combined, that peace without justice is empty rhetoric, and that it is impossible to have a peace based on aggression and usurpation. In view of these facts, Syria cannot neglect any Arab right or relinquish any fateful Arab demand under any circumstances.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: The first battle of the long, fierce peace battle has made the world a witness to our truth and to our enemy's falsehood. It has also shown how careful and vigilant we should be, and that we should adopt a unified Arab stand toward an enemy which brags before the world about aggression, usurpation, and continued expansion and occupation. [passage omitted]

In its editorial, the newspaper TISHRIN deals with the Israeli aggression against southern Lebanon. The paper says: Yitzhaq Shamir came to Madrid to undermine the peace conference and to lock doors leading to the hoped-for, just settlement. This is because the conference was convened within the framework of Resolutions 242 and 338, which provide for the Israeli forces' withdrawal and the establishment of Palestinian rights.

TISHRIN asserts that under such circumstances it is not surprising that through his harsh attack on Syria in particular and the Arab countries in general the Israeli prime minister would attempt to torpedo the peace conference right from the beginning. Neither is it surprising that he would issue the condition that the negotiations be moved from Madrid to the Middle East, specifically to Israel, with the aim of embarrassing the Arab delegations and to place new obstacles before the conference. Also, it is not unusual for Shamir to resort to military escalation. Thus, during the convocation of the Madrid conference, he instructed that pressure on southern Lebanon be stepped up in order to intimidate the Lebanese Government on the one hand and to threaten Syria on the other. Soon after Shamir left Madrid, the Israeli military pressure turned into a real attack in which aircraft, tanks, and artillery were deployed. The Israeli forces warned the population of al-Nabatiyah and surrounding villages to vacate them immediately, threatening to direct fire at every human being seen in the area extending up to Iqlim al-Tuffah. An observer cannot miss the fact that this Israeli attack is aimed at expanding the occupied Lebanese territory, creating tension, and dragging Syria into a battle in view of the Lebanese Army's deployment in those areas and in view of the Treaty of Brotherhood and Cooperation which dictates that Syria hurry to rescue the Lebanese forces and repulse the Israeli offensive. Naturally, in such a case, the peace conference would be subject to the gravest danger. In fact, it could come to an end before it begins its work.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says Israel's criminal conduct in southern Lebanon is not only a blow to peace efforts but is also a challenge to the international community and international legitimacy and its resolutions.

Press Assails Israeli Stance in Madrid

JN0511103391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Madrid Conference, Initial Results," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Since it announced its acceptance to participate in the Madrid

conference, Syria has had nothing to fear or hide, since the conference is meant to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. Besides, the bases upon which the conference was convened, and which were agreed on through the intensive diplomatic efforts that preceded preparations for this conference are clear to all. They are grounded in the resolutions of international legitimacy, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338. Now that the conference convened on schedule, and began the work of its first phase under the very nose of the world, it transpired from the outset that Israel's participation in this conference suffered from some form of dualism. The enemy's rhetoric embedded in the sessions, crudely at times, through using sweet words at other times, and through the employment of outmoded methods most of the time, has failed to conceal this dualism, which was glaringly shown, and which at the same time exposed the enemy's intentions and ulterior motives.

AL-BA'TH adds: If we are to talk about the initial results of the conference after the few days it was in session, we can say that the world has realized, now more than ever before, that Israel's claims regarding peace are empty and deceptive rhetoric that collapsed before Arab rights, which reigned supreme at this forum which commanded the attention of the entire world. These results were grasped by the world. Consequently, the world public expressed its dissatisfaction with the enemy's policy and its condemnation of this policy and also of its evasive course. These results were strengthened by new proof advanced by the enemy itself yesterday to confirm its adherence to occupation and settlement when it inaugurated a new settlement in the occupied Golan Heights.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: Hence, our delegation which went to the Madrid conference epitomized the very right and correct logic when it affirmed that negotiations with Israel are merely a waste of time. Through this stand, our delegation addressed a serious and sincere appeal to international legitimacy and to the cosponsors of the Madrid conference, urging them to play their required role in full to apply pressure on Israel and make it subscribe to the bases of the peace conference, the bases upon which the conference was convened, and in accordance with which Syria accepted to participate in it.

Under the headline, "The Battle for Just Peace," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Israeli officials have deliberately chosen to term the Syrian position articulated at the Madrid conference as a hardline position. Indeed, they claimed at news conferences they held that Syria does not want peace. The evidence that they advanced is the alleged inflexibility of the Syrian negotiating delegation. As a matter of fact, the Israelis thought that their negotiations with the Arab side would be easy. Besides, they thought that they would be able to dictate their conditions, and obscure international resolutions on the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The response demonstrated by Syria and the other Arab delegations showed firm adherence to international resolutions, and shed light on the crux of the conflict; namely, the Palestine question and the occupied Arab territories.

TISHRIN adds: The Syrian delegation did not go to the conference to listen to a misrepresentation of history, facts, and reality, such as Shamir's claim that Palestinian territory is the land of his ancestors; that the Arabs have large areas of land that render them in no need of Palestine, the Golan, and southern Lebanon; and that Soviet Jews, most of whom do not speak Hebrew, have a right to Palestine, whereas 4 million Palestinians who have lived for thousands of years on Palestinian territory do not have any right. Yes, the Syrian delegation did not go to the conference to listen to nonsense about the Soviet Jews' yearning for Jerusalem, when they in fact do not know where Jerusalem is located. The Syrian delegation went to Madrid to declare that peace requires the implementation of international resolutions, the resolutions which condemned the annexation of Jerusalem and the Golan, and called on Israel to withdraw from all occupied territories. The essence of negotiations is to embark on practical measures to achieve peace and meet all requirements of peace, foremost among which are Israeli withdrawal and the restitution of Palestinian rights.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says: Syria is for just and comprehensive peace, a peace that would realize the Palestinian people's independence and dignity and liberate Arab lands from the yoke of occupation. As for the Israelis, they will hear nothing from Syria but words vindicating right, justice, and international resolutions. The whole world has felt the seriousness of the Syrian position which strives to bring about peace. Likewise, the world has seen Shamir's intransigence and his ingrained hostility to peace. It is the battle to vindicate right in the face of falsehood. Similarly, it is the battle of peace in the face of those who made wars and aggressions their profession. All Israel's masks will fall, and then it will appear before the world as a savage monster not less dangerous than Nazism.

Under the headline "The Israeli Provocation," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says in a commentary published in the "Issues" column: From the outset of the conference, the Israeli effort focused on all that could thwart the conference and torpedo its basic purpose; namely, the achievement of peace. In his speech, Yitzhaq Shamir said that the element of territory should be dropped from negotiations, contending that laying emphasis on this element will cause the conference to reach a deadlock. This provided the first physical evidence that Israel wants the conference and negotiations to provide everything except peace. It wants to extricate a collective Arab recognition of the legitimacy of its occupation of Arab land. Likewise, it seeks to make the Palestinians endorse a relinquishment of all the legitimate national rights of the Palestine people. Moreover, it wants to forcibly share with the Arabs their water and other resources. It also wants to have a say in the determination of their future.

AL-THAWRAH adds: To show that it opposes peace endeavors, Israel has not remained content with all this. Indeed, it provided additional evidence when its negotiating delegation insisted on evading the issue of walking out of the bilateral negotiations, and preoccupied the conference with the issue of moving the venue of the second round of talks to the [Middle East] region instead of holding them in Madrid or any other neutral country. On top and above all this, Israel has opposed the participation of any third party, be it in an observer or neutral capacity, in the current negotiations so that it will not serve as a witness to its intransigence and to its rejection of peace and its bases, all of which are part of its requirements.

The paper maintains: The Israeli position smacks of provocation and defiance directed toward the entire world. Likewise, it shows a flouting of international legitimacy, and also of the world community's desire to bring about a just, durable, comprehensive, and permanent peace in the Middle East region. Israel is using all means to torpedo the most important opportunity to achieve peace the Middle East has ever seen. In light of Israel's provocation and its defiance of the international will, the world is urged to defend its legitimacy and will in the face of Israel and its aggression, which went beyond the geographic confines of the conflict, through its attempts to thwart peace efforts and rebel against the international consensus and its resolutions, which are an embodiment of international legitimacy.

Commentary Says Arabs 'Won' in Madrid

JN0511153691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The Madrid conference has certainly accomplished nothing toward the restoration of Arab rights. It, however, greatly exposed Israel's intransigent positions that reject peace, revealed its hostile nature, and created the beginning of a rift within Zionist society itself.

At a time when Arab delegations presented a practical view for peace based on UN resolutions, principles, and charters, the prime minister of Israel ignored these resolutions and told a stunned world—because the entire world followed the Madrid conference moment by moment—about David's psalms and the Soviet Jews' longing to see the land of Palestine. This Soviet Jew is certainly ignorant of the location of Jerusalem, and does not even speak Hebrew. If given the freedom of choice, he would have emigrated to the United States, refusing to head for occupied Palestine.

Thanks to Syria's coordination efforts, the Arabs succeeded in bringing back the Palestinian question and the issue of the occupied land to the forefront of the events, and was able to convince the world of the justice inherent in Arab demands. The Israeli enemy, whether through the person of Shamir, the negotiating delegation, or the media conniving with Zionism, sought to distort Syria's position because it constitutes the pivot of the general Arab position; however, those attempts at distortion rapidly failed. Syria has stressed its sincere readiness to establish a just and comprehensive peace, and has voiced its readiness to immediately anchor such peace in exchange for an Israeli commitment to implement UN resolutions, especially Resolutions 242 and 338.

Throughout the Madrid conference, neither Shamir nor the Israeli delegation uttered one word about these two resolutions as the terms of reference for settling the Arab-Israeli conflict. Shamir said in Madrid that it is impossible for Israel to withdraw from the Arab occupied territories because, according to him, they are Israeli lands. He accused the Arabs in general, and the Palestinians in particular of attacking Israel's alleged rights and practicing terrorism. All know that even now the Israeli Army still practices a scorched-land policy in the Arab occupied territories, and the policy of breaking the bones of Arab citizens there. All also know that the Palestinian people are the victims of a brutal aggression that is no less dangerous than Nazism, and threatens to change the Middle East into a large area of destruction and death if the international community does not put an end to Israeli arrogance and Zionist greed.

In a fresh challenge to the international will for peace, and to all efforts that were exerted to convene the peace conference and those being exerted to resume the sincere peace process, Yitzhaq Shamir dispatched three of his ministers to inaugurate a new settlement in the Golan, and to attack Syria and its positions on the Golan in particular. Shamir himself announced that settlements will continue, that he will continue to work for Greater Israel, and that he will not give up any part of the occupied territories, while Israeli forces continue their attacks on the cities and towns of the steadfast Lebanese south.

The truth is that Shamir was greatly disappointed. He expected the Arabs to come to Madrid submissive and ripe for surrender; however, the Arabs came armed with international resolutions and demanded that he implement these resolutions to establish a just and lasting peace. The world uselessly awaited an Israeli commitment to proceed with the peace process, and heard nothing from Shamir other than the Jews' longing to usurp all of Palestine and expel its legitimate owners. Israel's true nature appeared before the civilized world—an aggressive entity that rejects peace. Also, Shamir appeared as the symbol of arrogance and intransigence, and as a conjurer of historical and geographical facts.

The Arabs won in Madrid when they drew the attention of the entire world to the reality of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East—the Palestinian question and the Israeli occupation—and when they spoke in confidence and pride about the justice of their demands. The more they coordinate their positions and rally around Syria, rejecting any forfeiture of, or bargaining on, their rights guaranteed by Security Council and UN resolutions, the

more they will win the sympathy of global public opinion. Syria made promises and fulfilled them. Syria stressed the unity of the occupied Arab territories and the unity of the Arab cause, and placed the Palestinian question in the heart of its deliberations throughout the Madrid conference.

Press Notes 'Positive' Results of Madrid Talks

JN0611075691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Madrid Conference and the Positive Points," TISHRIN says: A careful look at last week's developments in Madrid would indicate that the Arabs scored many positive points, serving their interests and pan-Arab goals. The Madrid conference gave a unique opportunity to unveil Israel's aggressive and expansionist policy and its makers.

TISHRIN explains: For the first time, the world very clearly saw symbols of Zionism talking in a nervous way, using a language far removed from logical, rational, and normal civilized exchange among people at the end of the 20th century. The world community, which is now adopting realism and rationalism as the bases of international relations, saw the representative of Zionism giving weak, imaginary excuses to justify aggression, expansion, and occupation. These excuses conflict with the truth, provoke sound logic, and proceed from the so-called historic right and religious affiliation.

The paper adds: While the world is entrenching values of honesty and credibility in politics, it is realizing how forgery, fabrication, and even open lies have become the foundations of Israel's policy. According to Shamir, the Palestinians enjoy security and prosperity under the shadow of the Israeli occupation. On the other hand, oppression, dispersion, confiscation of property, and imprisonment of tens of thousands of people are absolutely nonexistent in the practices of the Israeli military authorities. The Arabs were the ones who encouraged and forced the Palestinians to leave their homes, while the gangs of Stern, Irgun, Kahana, Sharon, and others, are merely charitable and humanitarian groups. The Arabs, still according to Shamir, are the ones rejecting UN resolutions, while Israel is an obedient, innocent country that implements international will without question. The Arabs, moreover, are responsible for the continuation of the conflict and tension in the region, because they have ambitions in Israel's Torah land, and because they impede the reunion of the Jewish nation.

TISHRIN adds: Thus, Israel's exposure in front of the world, and the fall of the masks behind which Israel concealed itself for long years, was one of the major results of the Madrid conference. While the Arab struggle gained from the Madrid peace conference, the crisis of the Zionist entity deepened, and Israel's internal and external problems intensified.

The paper refers to Damascus' substantial role in Madrid, which angered the enemy and burst forth its hatred. This was reflected in the vicious campaign launched by terrorist Shamir against Syria, and in his latest provocative plans to establish a new settlement in the occupied Golan.

TISHRIN concludes: For this Israeli agitation to be confronted, further coordination should be displayed, Arab solidarity should be deepened, the will of steadfastness should be strengthened, and the principles of a just and comprehensive peace ensuring the return of the occupied territories and restoration of usurped Arab rights should be adhered to.

Under the headline "The Zionist Cards Were Exposed In Madrid," AL-BA'TH says: While the world was preoccupied with what was happening in Madrid, Shamir was ordering death and destruction in southern Lebanon. Shamir was defying the entire world at a time when Zionism lost its long arm, and people grew unprepared to accept Shamir's Torah concepts, which he presents to win the sympathy of European public opinion in particular, and Western public opinion at large.

It soon became clear that Shamir came to Madrid not to seek peace, but to look for new ways of deception; however, this veteran terrorist failed to find any such ways. We do not say that Zionism lost its pillars, but certainly, it is not in a position to mislead Western generations any longer.

For Zionist propaganda not to find a way out toward the world of the future, a common Arab strategy must be adopted. It should proceed from the great Arab resources and their influence on world public opinion, and it should be committed to the pan-Arab demand for peace based on restoration of all Arab rights.

Syria fully realizes all this. In its policies, therefore, it proceeds from the pan-Arab demands. Peace is indivisible, and it is impossible to divide the pan-Arab cause, which polarizes all Arab efforts despite all the current disturbance in the Arab situation.

On the same subject, AL-THAWRAH says: With frantic viciousness and hysteria, Israel is trying to make up for and retaliate for its defeat and major political crisis, which were clearly manifest in Madrid. The conference exposed Israel before the eyes of the world, unveiling the falsehood of its deceptions, and showing its return to belligerence and the policy of escalation and playing with fire in the region. Israel frustrated the entire world and, through its intransigence, refusal to comply with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and proposition of marginal issues that have nothing to do with peace, hastened to put this unsuccessful end to the first stage of the peace talks, deliberately dropping land from the main equation.

By inaugurating a new settlement in the occupied Golan, and by its barbaric shelling of southern Lebanese villages and towns, Israel expresses its failure and bitter defeat in

Madrid. All its claims for peace, in its just and known constituents, were proved false.

AL-THAWRAH adds: It is time this belligerence stopped and is encountered by full firmness from the world community. If Israel is not forced to accept the principle of land for peace, to leave the occupied Arab territories, and to recognize the rights of the Palestinian people, it will be impossible to achieve peace.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Israel will be making a big mistake if it believes it can win land, security, and peace at the same time, or if it believes that it can, through the language of force, threats, and aggression, prevent us from continuing the struggle to achieve the just and durable peace that restores our lands and rights.

Southern Lebanon Actions, Buwayz Protest Noted

JN0211145691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] Southern Lebanon—Israeli artillery has continued to shell a number of villages in southern Lebanon for the fifth day running, amid signs of a potential large-scale Israeli offensive in the region. Last night, Israeli warplanes raided Iqlim al-Tuffah in southern Lebanon, and observers believe the Israeli military escalation will negatively affect the Madrid peace conference.

REUTER cited sources in southern Lebanon as saying Israeli forces and agent Lahd militias shelled several villages to the east and north of the region occupied by Israel, and that the shelling continued through the night until this morning. The agent militias also warned the inhabitants of the shelled areas to leave within 12 hours. Israeli warplanes flying at low altitudes dropped flares over positions in Iqlim al-Tuffah and al-Nabatiyah; these positions are believed to be the targets of the expected Israeli offensive.

Yesterday, Israeli planes launched three raids against positions in al-Nabatiyah town, in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Intense artillery shelling followed those raids. According to reports, at least eight people were wounded yesterday.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz filed a protest with the UN Security Council and another with the United States over these repeated Israeli attacks. In the latter, he asked Edward Djerejian, assistant U.S. secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs, for U.S. pressure on Israel to stop the attacks.

Afghanistan

Najibollah Condoles Ex-King on Murder Attempt

LD0511210991 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] The following sympathy message on the recent assassination attempt against His Excellency Mohammad Zaher Shah, ex-king of Afghanistan, was sent to Rome by esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, and said:

His Excellency Esteemed Brother Mohammad Zaher Shah, ex-king of Afghanistan:

I hereby want to express my profound sorrow concerning the assassination conspiracy organized against your life. I have strongly condemned this treacherous terrorist action and regard it as another major obstruction by the enemies of peace and tranquillity for our beloved country—Afghanistan—in achieving peace in the country.

I look forward to [hearing] that the ugly faces of the perpetrators of this evil action are being revealed to our people and the international public when facts are established by the investigation.

This treacherous conspiracy once again shows that we are faced with international terrorism, and this, in my opinion, requires the unity [words indistinct] of peace-seeking and patriotic forces. I profoundly share the pain of this sorrowful mishap resulting from this incident. I pray to God for your quick recovery and good health.

With grief,

[Signed] Najibollah, president of Afghanistan

Assassination Attempt 'Grave'

LD0511183591 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, today received a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent at the headquarters of the Presidency, and answered questions on the attempt on the life of former King Mohammad Zaher Shah and its connection with the political settlement process and the restoration of peace. We draw your attention to the interview:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Esteemed president of Afghanistan, how do you view the attempt on the life of ex-King Mohammad Zaher in terms of the political solution and its impact in the country?

[Najibollah] The attempt on the life of Zaher Shah was an ugly terrorist act and a grave attempt to subvert the peace process. We are very sad, especially as we consider this subversive act to be in complete contravention to the declared aim of the Republic of Afghanistan—that is, the national reconciliation policy, the goal of which is the restoration of peace in the country. We have many times mentioned international terrorism, and we point out that this recent attempt can be considered a clear sign of this. Therefore, during the present difficult and ominous circumstances facing Afghan society, we urge all pro-peace and propolitical forces to unite and become ever more prominent, especially now when there is hope for a political solution. There are some people, fanatical extremists [words indistinct] ugly terrorist acts, who want to resolve the Afghan problem through war, militarily, and through further killing, bloodshed, and destruction in the country. They are unfortunately under the control of foreigners. When they notice that the peace process is gaining ground and receiving support from the majority of the Afghan people, they start creating obstacles to this process so as to subvert it. These efforts will get nowhere. It should be strongly condemned by us and everyone.

[Correspondent] Esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, thank you. [end recording]

Opposition's Rabbani Still Plans Visit to Moscow

LD0611065391 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0438 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Kabul, Nov 4, BAKHTAR—According to radio Voice of America, Burhanuddin Rabbani has said at a meeting that he will pay a visit to Moscow at the head of a mojahedin delegation in the near future and will try to acquire the support of other groups as well, reports radio Voice of America.

He has added that if he does not go to Moscow for talks with the Soviet authorities the pressure of the Pakistani authorities will be heightened on those mojahedin groups who refrain from nominating their representatives in the composition of the delegation going to Moscow.

According to radio Voice of America Mawlawi Khales, another leader of the extremists in a recent press conference, has condemned the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan on the latter's decision that if the three fundamentalist groups do not take part in Moscow talks will be drawn from Pakistan. [sentence as received]

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan in its recent press conference emphasized that those opposition groups who are against the political settlement of the Afghanistan issue will not be taken into account in the structure of a broad based transitional government in Afghanistan.

Mojahedin Renew Operations Around Jalalabad

BK0511140591 Hong Kong AFP in English 1340 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] [Word indistinct], Nov 5 (AFP)—Afghan resistance captured eight posts from Kabul Government forces in renewed operations around the garrison city of Jalalabad Tuesday, rebel sources said here.

The mojahedin had captured 15 soldiers while two guerrillas were killed and several injured, they said.

Jalalabad, the third largest Afghan city, has been a target of the mojahedin following the failed bid to overrun the garrison city of Gardeyz, a gateway to Kabul, last month.

The mojahedin jihad, or holy war, is aimed at toppling Afghan President Najibollah to establish an Islamic government in Afghanistan.

While continuing military operations against the Kabul regime the political leaders of the guerrillas have conditionally endorsed a U.N. plan for inter-Afghan negotiations to set up a transitional administration in Kabul.

The mojahedin reject any role for Najibollah or his Watan party in the peace process under the proposals announced by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar in May.

Resistance Faction Mends Ties With Saudi Arabia

BK0511142891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1423 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 5 (AFP)—A fundamentalist Afghan resistance faction Etehad-e Eslami said Tuesday it had normalized its relations with Saudi Arabia, setting aside differences that arose during the Gulf war.

"Both sides have agreed to open a new chapter of brotherly relationship," said a party statement carried by the resistance MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] news agency.

The patchup followed a visit to Saudi Arabia by an Etehad-e Eslami delegation which has just returned from the two week trip undertaken at the invitation of the Saudi Government, MIDIA said.

Mohammad Yaser, chairman of the Etehad-e Eslami political committee, led the three-member delegation to the Kingdom.

The faction is led by Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, who is also prime minister of the Pakistan-based rebel government-in-exile.

Sayyaf had opposed the Saudi Government's decision to invite the U.S.-led multinational forces to the Kingdom after the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in August last year.

9,200-Member 'Opposition Group' Joins State

LD0111055591 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0456 GMT 31 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Kabul, Oct. 30, BAKHTAR—A 9,200-member opposition group (1100 rpt 1100 armed and the remnants unarmed) stopped a war in the Dowlatabad District, Faryab Province north of Afghanistan and joined ranks of the defenders of the country today. [passage omitted]

3 Nov News Conference

LD0311165191 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1330 GMT 3 Nov 91

[Text] The commander of a 9,200-strong group in some parts of Faryab Province that recently joined the national reconciliation policy gave a news conference this morning and replied to journalists' questions.

A BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military correspondent reports that at the beginning of the news conference that was held in the Foreign Affairs Ministry's Storay Palace with foreign and national journalists and cultural attaches of a number of the foreign countries represented in Kabul, Uraz Mohammad, known as Zabet, the commander of the aforementioned group, said in his statement:

Our group joined the reconciliation policy based on the judgement of holy religious scholars concerning the meaninglessness of the continuation of war under the current conditions now that foreign forces have left our country. With an understanding of the uselessness of the continuation of the war and bloodshed, which does not bring anything but bloodshed for Afghans and the destruction of our common home—Afghanistan—we have decided to use our weapons from now on to ensure peace and security and prevent the interference of the foreigners and enemies of the homeland and people.

He added: When we were standing alongside the state's opposition, we were receiving arms and ammunition via Pakistan's military sources and were carrying out combat and destructive activities based on the instructions that were secretly given to the leaders of formations by Pakistan's military intelligence. I can say clearly that Pakistan's military circles encourage Afghans to continue the war and that they do not want the issue of Afghanistan to be solved by understanding and dialogue.

Foreign and national journalists then asked their questions, to which he gave detailed replies.

The BIA military correspondent adds that as a result of the decision by the aforementioned group—which had been operating in the framework of the Golboddin extremist group—to join the reconciliation policy, peace and tranquillity have been established in 20 villages of Jowzjan and Faryab Provinces and the security of the supply routes of these provinces has been ensured.

At the end of the news conference a videotape of the ceremony in which the group joined the reconciliation policy was shown to the journalists. The group includes 1,200 armed men and 8,000 unarmed men.

AFP Correction to Rebel Group Blames U.S., USSR

BK0511152391

AFP supplies the following correction to the item subheadlined "Rebel Group Blames U.S., USSR," published in the 5 November Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 58:

Column two, paragraph six, make read: A mojahedin resistance delegation was expected to travel to Moscow this month but fundamentalist leaders Yunes Khales and Rasul Sayyaf, as well as Gulboddin have said they would boycott the talks.

But even if.... (correcting wording)

Defense Minister Holds News Conference

LD0311210191 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1630 GMT 3 Nov 91

[News conference by Afghan General Mohammad Aslam Watanjar with unidentified foreign and national correspondents in Kabul on 3 November—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified moderator, in Dari] Esteemed General Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, minister of defense of the Republic of Afghanistan [words indistinct] the PAYAM newspaper; the military agency; the ANIS and SARBAZ newspapers; and military correspondents of Afghan radio and television would like you to speak to them and furnish some information about the political-military situation in the country and about recent achievements by our armed forces in Paktia and Nangarhar Provinces.

[Watanjar] Esteemed President of Radio Afghanistan, as you know, a statement was issued by Esteemed Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general, about (?the cessation of war and the restoration of peace in Afghanistan) in May, and in connection with this statement a declaration was issued in mid-September by the USSR and the United States on the basis of which all military supplies to both warring sides in the Afghan problem will be suspended as of 1 January 1992. [one-minute break in reception]

Esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, explained the aims of the two declarations separately to the head and members of the government, to the esteemed presidents of the Wolasi Jerga and Senate, and eventually to a joint session of the two chambers of the mili shura and conveyed their specific directions to all people of Afghanistan and all Afhan citizens, whether inside Afghanistan or in any other part of the world, whether armed opponents or unarmed. He then asked them to come talk about the implementation of both declarations and to arrange the mechanism for implementation.

It should be said emphatically that following both declarations, and despite their sincere confirmation by the Afghan Republic and people, some extremist circles of the Pakistani state and extremist groups of the opposition embarked on offensives against Gardeyz, Nangarhar, the Kabul-Gardeyz highway, and the Kabul-Nangarhar highway using new weapons including various artillery (?pieces) and tactics, and armored tactics, the existence of which was not concealed by the international mass media, either. Fortunately, this aggression and interference was not only pushed back but suffered heavy losses of life and equipment.

Currently the units of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan are defending aggression along their defensive lines, as demanded by the policy of national reconciliation and in line with [words indistinct] which have come about based on the national interests of Afghanistan.

As the minister of defense, I assure the noble, Muslim, patriotic, and human-loving people of Afghanistan that your armed forces, in accordance with the tasks entrusted to them, will defend the blue skies, the territorial integrity, the national sovereignty, and the independence of their beloved homeland, Afghanistan. Your armed forces are, as a result of high military training, militarily prepared; they are aware; they are vigilant; and they will at the price of—that is life, and life is given to man once in this world—they can defend their national interests, Islamic interests, and human rights in Afghanistan.

Thank you for your attention. I am now at your disposal.

[BIA correspondent] Esteemed Gen. Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, Afghan minister of defense, please tell us about the situations in Paktia and Nangarhar Provinces.

[Watanjar] During the second half of the month of Sonbola [starting 23 August] Pakistan's extremist circles and extremist groups of the opposition resorted to arms and committed aggression against the sacred land of Afghanistan by launching dirty offensives against the surroundings of Gardeyz, Jalalabad, and the Kabul-Jalalabad and Kabul-Lowgar highways. The difference in these offensives from others—[for instance] the attack on Jalalabad, which was launched from five sides and which was directly commanded by Arabs and Pakistani extremist circles—was that in that attack armored tactics and equipment were not used. But in Sonbola and Mizan [starting 23 September], during the offensive against Jalalabad and Gardeyz, artillery and rockets, as well as Gulf war tanks which were funneled to them through Pakistan, were employed and thus changed the character of the fighting. Due to preparations, discipline, training, and their love for the national interest, the armed forces inflicted, however, heavy losses of life and materiel on the attackers, and the offensive was checked and forced back.

If the attackers continue their offensives in the guise of the noble Afghans, they will encounter the same response as they did in Gardeyz, Nangarhar, Laghman, and Lowgar.

[Correspondent] [Word indistinct] from the Payam. Esteemed Minister of Defense of the Republic of Afghanistan, please give us some information on the military-political situation at the national level.

[Watanjar] The political-military situation as a whole is positive in Afghanistan. Only in the east and southeast, that is, Nangarhar and Paktia and the Kabul-Jalalabad

and Kabul-Gardeyz highways, is the situation tense. But the armed forces crushed the offensive in such a way that they will never again embark on it. The armed forces are completely ready to discharge their duties, which are the defense of the land and air of the Republic of Afghanistan and the dislodging of the surreptitious attacks of the extremists. Your armed forces continue military training and enjoy high discipline. Therefore, those young men whose national service period has ended or is about to end voluntarily approach the armed forces and strengthen their ranks, because they know that our armed forces defend the national reconciliation policy.

Proof of my claim could also be that during the last few days, as a result of our people's confidence in the state and its policy, around 5,000 people in Karokh District, in Herat Province, announced that they had joined the policy of national reconciliation and stand beside their compatriots against war and for the establishment of peace. Also last week, almost 10,000 people in Dawlatabad District, Faryab Province who live in 20 major villages and whose ranks included 1,200 armed opponents, joined the policy of national reconciliation after realizing the righteousness of the policy of the state and the foulness of war and bloodshed. They pledged to organize themselves to implement the policy of national reconciliation within the framework of the republican state and in the ranks of the armed forces as sons of the people of Afghanistan.

The military-political situation in Afghanistan today is stable and is moving toward further stability. The realization by the people of Afghanistan and international public opinion concerning the present sovereignty, the present state, and the existing armed forces, and the presence of potential in the existing system, have come to the conclusion that a military solution in Afghanistan should henceforth be rejected forever.

[TV correspondent] I am a representative of military TV broadcasting. Esteemed Minister of Defense, could you please tell us about the role of the people in repulsing the extremists and foreign enemies in Nangarhar and Paktia Provinces?

[Watanjar] Our people want peace and security in the country. They see the righteousness of the state policy and they have a deep hatred for war. It is therefore not only that they alone have stood beside the state, but they have also placed their sons there and have actively strengthened the defensive ranks and are defending the national aspirations of their country within the framework of the armed forces. Our people know that behind the armed extremists are not only the hands of aliens but that the extremists rely on them. It is known to the whole world that the Afghans are naturally very sensitive to foreigners and aliens who interfere in their affairs. Thus the people of Afghanistan and the armed forces, like an iron fist, are in action one body against aggressors and every sort of aggression. They are standing in joint trenches. The role of the people in Gardyez and Nangarhar, in Laghman and Lowgar, in foiling aggression was and is really praiseworthy. Our people have carried out their historical mission at the side of their armed forces, who are their sons and are striving to realize their aspirations. They stand side by side in action.

[Moderator] Esteemed Mohammad Aslam Watanjar, minister of defense, thank you very much.

[Watanjar] Thank you.

Decree Issued on Kabul Local Elections

LD0211094191 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Oct 91

[Text] The presidential press office reports that a decree with the following text has been issued by esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, on holding elections for the municipality majlis of Kabul city for the Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan:

1. Based on the instructions of paragraph two, Articles 79 and 130 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, elections for two senators from among members of the municipality council of Kabul city for the sena session of the Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan should be held in accordance with free, equal, secret, and direct elections during the second half of Aqrab [began 23 October].

2. The Council of Ministers is duty-bound during a period of one week to appoint seven members of an election commission led by the head of the Kabul city court.

3. The election commission is authorized to fulfil its duty in connection with holding and carrying out elections based on the law.

4. This decree is enforced from the date of issue and should be published in the press and the official gazette.

[Signed] Najibollah, president of Afghanistan

Local Elections Begin in Baghlan, Samangan

LD0511094591 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0431 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Kabul, Nov 4, BAKHTAR—Elections started in 12 election constituencies and 20 polling stations in Samangan and Baghlan Provinces today. BAKHTAR reported that chairmen of the provincial councils of the Watan Party and some responsibles of these provinces' related organs inspected process of elections. Elections continue for another two days. As per the decree of Najibollah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) elections to the provincial councils were started lately.

Bangladesh

Prime Minister To Attend Regional Summit

BK0511161491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1519 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 5 (AFP)—Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will leave for Colombo as scheduled for a summit meeting of the South Asian regional body SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] beginning there Thursday, an official source here said Tuesday.

Zia and her entourage will fly to Sri Lankan capital Wednesday, the source at the prime minister's secretariat told AFP amid earlier press reports of uncertainties over the fate of the sixth summit of leaders of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

He said the Bangladesh premier's departure and participation at the summit had been reconfirmed after consultations with other leaders of the SAARC, launched in Dhaka in 1985 by Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman is already in Colombo attending a preparatory ministerial meeting ahead of the three-day summit.

Reports from Colombo said the the foreign ministers' meeting finally began late Tuesday after being cancelled earlier in the day for delegates to resolve snags that had developed over this year's summit.

After a delay of almost 10 hours, the bickering ministers agreed to begin a downgraded meeting to finalise an agenda for the summit.

The meeting was cancelled Tuesday morning for informal talks on the withdrawal of King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan from the summit.

Reports from Kathmandu Tuesday said the Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala had postponed his departure for Colombo amid speculation that he would not attend the summit.

Zia's assassinated husband President Ziaur Rahman toured South Asian capitals in 1977 stressing the need for a body like SAARC to foster friendship and eliminate an atmosphere of mistrust in the region.

India

European Parliamentary Delegation Begins Visit

BK0511162291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] The union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has called for international cooperation to end terrorism and check drug trafficking. Talking to a European parliamentary delegation in New Delhi today, he said terrorism should not get encouragement as innocent people, including women and children, lose their lives in the senseless killing by terrorists. Mr. Chavan also mentioned about the kidnapping of the Romanian diplomat, Mr. Radu, in New Delhi.

The delegation condemned terrorism and shared Mr. Chavan's concern about drug trafficking. They also expressed sympathy for the victims of the earthquake in Uttar Kashi.

The European parliamentary delegation for relations with the countries from South Asia and SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] arrived in the capital this morning at the invitation of the chairman of the Rajya Sabha and the speaker of the Lok Sabha. During their week-long stay, the delelgates will also call on the vice president, the speaker of the Lok Sabha, the ministers for parliamentary affairs, finance, and external affairs; and the leader of the opposition.

Paper Criticizes Tehran Radio Comments on India

BK0511111191 Delhi PATRIOT in English 28 Oct 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Casuistry in Tehran"]

[Text] Those whose business it is to monitor developments in South-West Asia wonder what Radio Tehran's recent comment on India really means. Theologians and Shia clergy rule Iran. Casuisty and circumlocution must therefore affect officialese of Iran. But, as far as India is concerned, the Islamic Republic of Iran's animus towards this country in the past was unconcealed. Some Iranian agencies were guilty of supporting Indian communal groupings, especially those in Jammu and Kashmir. Tehran's baleful interest during that phase was not restrained by the first principle of good neighbourly relations—good neighbours do not interfere in each other's domestic affairs. Why go far to recall how the former Shah of Iran backed Pakistan against India; even the recent proceedings of the Organisation of Islamic Countries would show that Iran's present rulers have seldom displayed towards India the restraint any country would expect from a responsible government of another country, even if one forgets that geography has placed Iran and India in the same region and it is natural for this country to expect of Iran a friendly response. Yet the sibylline statement Iran (or Radio Tehran) has made must mean something. Why the Iranian commentator has suddenly decided to credit India with desire to become a "regional power" may have something to do with the old Iranian ambitions. The late Shah of Iran, Reza Pahlavi, expended the country's vast petro-dollar earnings to put together a frightening arsenal of all manner of weapons. In the late Shah's thinking, the dominant, imperial status was Iran's manifest destiny. President Saddam Husayn's megalomania has reintroduced in South-West Asia a massive Western military

presence. This has altered the region's balance of power. Iran has long wanted to be the cock of the path in South-West Asia. By referring to the plans for military cooperation between India and the U.S. and imputing to India the ambition for regional leadership, the Tehran commentator may have fired a warning shot. Tehran's decision-takers really ought to know that this country has never sought "regional leadership"—whatever that may mean. The Americans sometimes speak of this, and then withhold this verbal nothing. They do so because their policy makers have not really cared to know India well enough. They were busy bolstering Pakistan as the region's surrogate policeman. But unlike Pakistan, India does not have a bloated military establishment to justify jingoism and hegemonistic aims. India's attention is occupied by her internal poverty-alleviation programme. She must also defend her territorial integrity. India wants a democratic world order, not the meaningless regional leadership. Pakistan's duplicity and religious bigotry no doubt create serious problems for Iran. But the situation cannot be mended by oracular statements conveying conflicting meanings. Friendship—and this is what India wants with Iran—must be based on mutual respect and frankness.

'Industrial Sickness' Hampering Economic Growth

BK0411055291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Commentary by Mahendra Dev of THE HINDUSTAN TIMES]

[Text] The government resolve to safeguard the interests of the workers of public sector units that are chronically sick has once again been reiterated by the minister of state for industry, Mr. P.K. Thungan, in Bangalore. He said the central government will soon refer the cases of 40 such odd units to the Bureau of Industrial Finance and Reconstruction, BIFR, by introducing necessary changes in the Industries Act. The minister also spoke of a social security system for workers of these units for the transitional period until they find alternative employment.

This is a welcome statement which has to be seen in the context of the government's policy of evolving an exit policy that will enable it to look after workers of industrial units that are closed down. This was enunciated by the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, in his annual budget speech. However, there are questions that remain unanswered. The government wants to deal with the sick public sector units without having yet evolved an exit policy. It has been criticized by several political parties and trade union organizations who fear that the workers' interests might suffer. The first step necessary for privatization of the sick public sector units or their closure has thus yet to be taken. It has been agreed by all, including the leadership of the Congress-I, that the workers of the closed units cannot be left to the mercies of market forces. This is more so in a country like ours where fresh investment is limited and new industrial units do not come up at the desired pace. Secondly, the reference to the BIFR of the sick public sector units also raises some pertinent questions. The BIFR deals only with the sick industrial units in the private sector and is not able to cope with the large number of cases that are referred to it. It would have to be strengthened if it is to take on more responsibility.

Moreover, the BIFR does not have the powers to enforce its decision. It needs to be provided with teeth even to deal with the present task it has before it. The present powers and staff strength are not enough for the BIFR if it is to be entrusted with the work of evaluating the performance of the public sector units. The government must have a clear policy of tackling the vast public sector in which it has invested over one lakh crore rupees. The question of chronically sick public sector units has also been a chronic one. Any criticism in the past of these units has been treated as criticism of the public sector itself which, the government maintains, will retain the commanding heights of the economy. However, it must evolve a clear policy to tackle the question of industrial sickness, which is seriously hampering economic growth.

Iran

Nuclear Energy Chief Denies 'Nonpeaceful' Use

LD0611113991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] In a news conference, Deputy President Amrollahi, chief of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization, has denied, in the wake of coordinated propaganda by Western sources about Iran's nuclear capability, that there is any kind of nonpeaceful utilization of nuclear energy in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He stated that from the outset Iran has demanded a nuclear-free zone and that it still insists on this. He referred to the nuclear capability of the Zionist regime, which possesses 300 nuclear warheads, and said: The Middle East region is under potential nuclear threat from Israel.

Asserting that America is directly trying to maintain the nuclear strength of the Zionist regime and that the nuclear centers of America are at the service of that regime, he said: Iran was itself a victim of the nonpeaceful utilization of high technology during the eight years of the Iraqi-imposed war against Iran. Now Iran not only does not intend to acquire nuclear weapons itself but believes that such weapons in the region must be destroyed.

Emphasizing that Iran is bent on the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy, Dr. Amrollahi referred to relations between Iran and China in nuclear matters. He stated: Except for America, Israel, and the racist regime of South Africa, we shall have relations with any country within the regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and China is no exception to that general rule. He added: We have held negotiations with Germany and several other countries for the purpose of completing the Bushehr nuclear power station.

Analyzing the nuclear situation in America and advanced countries, the chief of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization described as sensationalism the adverse propaganda carried out against Iran regarding the development of nuclear capabilities. Denying these accusations, he said: While a population of 2 billion persons has 426 nuclear power stations, the developing countries' population of more than 3 billion does not possess even a single nuclear power station.

The chief of our country's atomic energy organization called on UN inspectors to visit the nuclear installations of the Zionist regime and to publish a report on nuclear assistance to Israel and Iraq by America.

Rafsanjani on Israel's 'Increasing Impudence'

LD0611115191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Saudi Charge d'Affaires Badr 'Uthman Bakhsh this morning. During the meeting the Saudi charge d'affaires presented a special gift from King Fahd, a piece of the holy curtain of the House of God. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed gratitude for this very valuable and precious gift, and welcomed the expansion of ties and relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia in all existing fields.

While expressing concern about the increasing impudence of the Zionist regime, particularly since the Madrid conference, the president said: We hope that thanks to the wisdom and efforts of Islamic figures we will pass through the present era in such a way as to remain proud before history and the Muslim people of the region.

Government, Turkey Reach Border Security Accord

TA0111201391 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 1 Nov 91

[Text] Turkey and Iran have decided to expand their cooperation to prevent terrorist incidents along their common border. According to the agreement reached at the end of the Turkish-Iranian joint border committee meeting that ended in Tehran yesterday, the sides will jointly investigate the incidents that occur in the area stretching 2 km on either side of the border. The sides will also make efforts to apprehend the terrorists who cross the border.

Paper Views U.S., EC, Turkish Role in Cyprus

NC0311144691 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 24 Oct 91 pp 12, 11

[Unattributed commentary: "The Security Council and the Cyprus Question"]

[Excerpts] Under the auspices of newly ratified UN Resolution 716, the United Nations is seeking to unify Greek and Turkish Cypriots to create a single government in Cyprus. Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktas rejected the resolution, saying that the Turkish part of Cyprus will never accept Resolution 716 and that UN Security Council support for the Greek sector of the island shows that it is opposed to the concept of human rights and the legitimate rights of Turkish Cypriots. [passage omitted]

The leader of Cyprus' Turkish community seeks a joint federation with equal rights for the Greek and Turkish communities, claiming that for the past 28 years the Greek Cypriots have ignored Turkish Cypriot rights.

The unanimous approval of Resolution 716 indicates that the United States and the EC have successfully

passed the burden of resolving the Cyprus issue to the Security Council and international opinion.

The Turkish Government has been calling for quadripartite talks between Greece, Turkey, and the leaders of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities. Denktas' government may not have much of a chance in view of the overall regional situation and the Ozal government's eagerness to join the EC. General opinion is that U.S. pressure and a favorable EC response will force Turkey to be as flexibile as the U.S. President wants it to be, and that Turkey will not create problems for the implementation of the latest U.S. proposals.

It is also important that this issue is being raised on the eve of Turkey's general elections. Until the elections are over the Ozal government will probably not take a categorical stand against the UN resolution, especially because opposition parties will capitalize on the issue for their own benefit by accusing the government of being influenced enough to jeopardize Turkey's interests in Cyprus. Ozal will be in no hurry to declare his government's stand on the issue.

The Turkish Government is undoubtedly aware of the negative aspects of resisting U.S. proposals, and it is improbable that it would allow its position among the allies to be weakened by its support of Cypriot Turks. [passage omitted]

It is feasible, therefore, that the end of Cyprus' dual governments is nearing and that the Republic of Cyprus may be in the last days of its existence. The fact that the Ozal government has downgraded the issue from a national issue to an economic one with immense costs for Turkey is an entirely separate issue.

The change in the Turkish Government's policy does not mean, however, that the EC will accept Turkey as a member. Turkey still has a long road ahead of it before it can join the EC. Any solution to the Cyprus problem, which may be to the benefit of the Greek Cypriot community, will reduce the Turks to a minority, and ethnic tensions there will continue in a new and more extensive phase.

Mr. Bush will claim that his recent visit to Turkey and Greece made the resolution of the Cyprus issue possible. Of course, Cyprus would then be indebted to to the United States for its reunification—which will be construed as a step forward in Mr. Bush's new world order and amicable solutions to regional problems.

Velayati, Brazil's Rezek Discuss Cooperation

LD0411210391 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 4 Nov 91

[Text] The Iranian-Brazilian Joint Commission for Political and Economic Cooperation met this afternoon at the Foreign Ministry Center for Political Research. The meeting was led by the foreign ministers of Iran and Brazil.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Velayati said that a new chapter has opened in relations between the two countries. He continued: Brazil has a special status, as one of our friends, in the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He added: After eight years of war and holy defense, the task of reconstructing war-damaged regions has started. Also, the first five-year program of the Islamic Republic of Iran is currently being implemented by experts and specialists, and Brazil can play an effective role in implementing Iran's industrial and economic programs.

Brazil's Foreign Minister Jose Francisco Rezek, after emphasizing the expansion of political and economic relations between Iran and Brazil, described the existing political climate between the two countries as good. He said: Brazil can assist in the implementation of Iran's industrial and economic projects. The current volume of trade between Brazil and Iran is worth over $1.3 billion, and new facilities such as eliminating credit sales and clearing systems [as heard] between the two countries have been created so as to expand economic relations and exports.

Officials Comment on Talks

LD0511205791 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 5, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today foresaw deepening of Iran's "friendly relations" with Brazil, and singled out trade, industry and agriculture as areas of cooperation.

Speaking at a luncheon in honour of Brazil's minister of external affairs, Jose Francisco Rezek, Velayati said Iran, parallel with its infrastructural and economic reconstruction has taken "effective and significant" steps for the development of political relations with other countries "on the basis of mutual respect and interests."

Rezek, on behalf of President Fernando Collor de Mello, presented his Iranian counterpart, with Brazil's highest medal of honour, and lauded Velayati's "untiring efforts" for promotion of relations between the governments and peoples of the two countries.

Velayati replied: "The Islamic Republic has always supported the relaxation of tension and close relations among different nations irrespective of their race and faith."

However, he deplored the racial policies of expansionist regimes such as Israel, which he pointed out still pursues the "massacre of defenceless Palestinians".

The Iranian minister listed the human sufferings in Palestine, Lebanon and Afghanistan as "among the sad tragedies of our time", and held Iraq responsible for the "deplorable situation" in the Persian Gulf.

"The imposition of two destructive wars by the Ba'thist regime of Iraq, has brought about huge material and

spiritual damage in the region that can be repaired only after many long years," he said.

Rezek said that Iran and Brazil as "two important developing nations", have ample grounds for cooperation, and hoped for materialization of bilateral agreements concluded between the two counties during the joint economic commission meet.

The Brazilian foreign minister who arrived in Tehran Monday at the head of high-ranking delegation, thanked the Islamic Republic for its "warm" hospitality.

Khorasani Urges Ties With Egypt, Others

LD0511150191 Tehran IRNA in English 1309 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 5, IRNA—A senior parliamentarian today called on the government of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to re-establish ties with Egypt, Morocco and South Africa. "The government which made peace with the Zionist regime was the al-Sadat government which received its due punishment," said head of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Majlis Sa'id Raja'i Khorasani at the open session of the Majlis.

"Mubarak's fault, however, seems to be his participation in the Madrid conference and in this respect there is no difference between the Mubarak Government and other participants at the conference, such as the Syrian, Jordanian, Lebanese and Algerian governments. Should we also sever ties with these countries as well?"

In remarks made last week after a foreign policy committee session, Khorasani urged the Foreign Ministry to consider restoration of relations with Egypt. But some members of the committee later announced that Khorasani's advice was his personal opinion and not that of the committee. [Khorasani] further called for establishment of relations with the South African Government.

Raja'i Khorasani said that the criterion for establishment of diplomatic ties with other governments should not be restricted to the mere performance and policies of those governments. "Some imagine that since the performance of a certain government is not endorsed by the Iranian Government, the relations between the two countries should be severed, and they (this group) raise this view with strong slogans," he regretted.

He said it was not possible and logical to raise any matter in the name of Iran's foreign policy by constantly repeating the idea of condemnation of the U.S. and Israel. He said such ideas were raised by the same people who wanted to involve Iran in the false war between Iraq and the U.S.-allied forces last year.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government adopted a neutral stance in the Persian Gulf war which was praised by the world and the regional governments in particular, as a wise policy. "One should talk carefully because sensationalism is not the way whereby to illustrate a country's foreign policy issues. The country's foreign policy should be taken up by precisely analysing the realities and not through methods that consume the foreign policy issues for domestic chiquism."

On Iran's stance towards the South African regime, Raja'i Khorasani said that racial discrimination has been eliminated in South Africa and "if we support the annihilation of apartheid, we should support the government which has abolished this policy." He then advised the government to consider resumption of ties with South Africa otherwise, he said, "it would not have been in line with our past stances."

The head of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Majlis also urged President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to study positively the message of a high-ranking Moroccan delegation which recently visited Iran, calling for restoration of ties with Iran.

Nepal & Bhutan

Prime Minister Not To Attend SAARC Summit

BK0611011091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] The Nepalese prime minister, Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala, has postponed his visit to Colombo to attend the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit. The Foreign Ministry, in a statement broadcast over Nepal Radio yesterday, said that Mr. Koirala's visit to Colombo has been changed. The announcement came only two hours prior to his departure to the Sri Lankan capital. As already reported, the Bhutanese King Jigme Wangchuck is also not attending the meeting.

New Appointments To Streamline Legal System

BK0511144991 Hong Kong AFP in English 1325 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Nov 5 (AFP)—Nepal's King Birendra appointed 67 judges Tuesday to nine appellate courts in a bid to speed up the judicial process and make it impartial and independent, the royal press secretariat said.

"Nine chief justices, 44 judges and 14 additional judges have been appointed by the king in nine appellate courts at the advice of the judicial council headed by Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala," the official announcement said.

The appointments, which include two male judges [as received], will take effect from November 9, it said.

A Ministry of Law and Justice source said that as of that date the country's zonal, regional and special courts "would be closed for ever," doing away with the fourth tier of the judicial system.

The three levels of the system will now be judicial courts, district appellate courts and the Supreme Court headed by the chief justice, the source said.

Under the 30-year partyless Panchayat system most civil servants with legal knowledge were appointed as district and zonal judges, creating the fourth tier which delayed the legal process and disrupted people's lives, lawyers here said.

The Panchayat system was overturned in 1990 following massive pro-democracy demonstrations, making way for Nepal's first democratic elections in May 1991.

Pakistan

Minister—Nuclear Program for 'Peaceful' Purposes

BK0611044491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Abdullah Qazi, minister of state for political affairs, has said that Pakistan's nuclear program is purely for peaceful purposes and that its aim is to fulfill the increasing demands for energy. He was speaking to the U.S. political consular officer to Pakistan, who called him in Islamabad yesterday. He said that if America wants to continue with restrictions on aid to Pakistan, this should be applicable to all countries making progress in nuclear technology.

Officials Send Messages to Former Afghan King

BK0511132291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif have expressed shock and concern over the dastardly attempt in Rome on the life of the former king of Afghanistan, Zaher Shah. In their separate messages to the former king, the president and the prime minister conveyed their sympathy to him and prayed for his speedy recovery and good health.

Prime Minister To Lead Delegation to SAARC

BK0511155091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif will lead the Pakistani delegation to the sixth South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] summit beginning in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo, on 7 November. The Council of Ministers will meet prior to the summit. Senior officials of the member countries who are already in Colombo are attending various meetings preceding the summit.

Pakistan firmly believes in the SAARC objectives and has been playing a meaningful role in the organization's administration and improvement and in making it a (?formal) organization.

Prime Minister Receives Bangladeshi Minister

BK0511164991 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has said that Pakistan and Bangladesh enjoy a special and close relationship based on their historical, political, cultural, and religious ties and it should be fully reflected in the economic and trade relations between the two countries. The prime minister was talking to Bangladeshi Commerce Minister M.K. Anwar, who called on him along with this delegation in Islamabad today. During the meeting, the two sides agreed to explore the possibility of expanding economic ties between Pakistan and Bangladesh and also held talks on the possibility of setting up joint ventures in the textile sector. The prime minister assured the delegation of all possible help by Pakistan in Bangladesh's economic development. It was also decided to exchange visits by industrialists and traders between the two countries.

The prime minister referred to his visit to Bangladesh during the flood and his recent meeting with Bangladeshi Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in Harare. He also renewed the invitation to the Bangladeshi prime minister to visit Pakistan.

Officials Seek To Reduce Trade Imbalances

BK0611035491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Nov 91

[Text] Pakistan and Bangladesh have agreed to review all possible means to reduce imbalances in bilateral trade. This was agreed during the meeting between Bangladeshi Commerce Minister M.K. Anwar and federal Commerce Minister Malik Naim Khan in Islamabad yesterday. Both sides emphasized the need to increase bilateral trade as well.

State Forms Bodies To Promote Sectarian Harmony

BK0511164691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 5 Nov 91

[Text] The government has constituted three committees on Ittehad Bainal Muslimin, Nifaz-i-Sharia [unity among Muslims, implementation of Islamic jurisprudence], and Islamic welfare state. The committees are aimed at promoting sectarian harmony, reformation of the social system according to the Koran and the Sunnah [teachings of the prophet], and implementation of the Sharia. This was announced by the federal minister for religious affairs, Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi, at a news conference in Islamabad today. He said these committees have been formed on the directive of the prime minister. Similar committees were also being formed at the provincial and district levels.